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LIBERIA.

A republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects.—HENRY CLAY.

BULLETIN No. 10. FEBRUARY, 1897.

ISSUED BY THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

LIBERIA.

BULLETIN No. 10. FEBRUARY, 1897.

THE EIGHTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

NECROLOGY.

During the past year death has taken from this Society two of its distinguished and most devoted and active members.

The Rev. Thomas G. Addison, D. D., rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church of Washington, District of Columbia, died April 3, 1896, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

He was elected a member of the Executive Committee of this Society in 1878, and filled that office until his death. As a man, he had positive and earnest convictions and the courage to speak and act in accordance therewith; as a devout Christian minister, his teachings and life were in close harmony; as a member of this Society and one of its important executive officers, he was ever at his post of duty, and most zealously and faithfully served the cause in which he had enlisted.

On the occasion of his death his surviving colleagues on the Executive Committee of this Society and the Pennsylvania Auxiliary Colonization Society unanimously adopted and placed upon their records resolutions expressing their high appreciation of the services of their late colaborer, their deep sense of official loss, and most sincere personal sorrow.

The Rev. George Whitefield Samson, D. D., died in New York city, August 8, 1896, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

He was born in Harvard, Massachusetts, September 29, 1819; he entered Brown University in 1835 and was graduated therefrom in 1839; he was pastor of a Baptist church at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, of the E Street Baptist church and the First Baptist church, Washington, District of Columbia, and of the Mount Morris Baptist church, Harlem, New York, making a total pastorate of sixteen years; and he was president of the

Columbian College, District of Columbia, from 1859 to 1870, during which time medical and law departments were added to that institution, and subsequently he was president of Rutgers Female College, New York city.

He traveled in Europe, Palestine, and Egypt, and wrote extensively for publication, his best-known work being a book on the "Elements of Art Criticism," designed for and in its time extensively used by higher schools and colleges.

He was a delegate from the District of Columbia Colonization Society to the American Colonization Society in 1856, and at the meeting held January 17 of that year was elected a member of the Executive Committee, in which capacity he served until October 9, 1871, when he resigned on account of his removal from the city. In 1873, by the donation of a friend, he was made a life director in the Society. He thus held important offices in this Society for the greater part of a period of forty years. In 1874 he delivered the annual address before the Society, taking as his subject "Correlate Duties of the People of the United States to the Descendants of Colored People desiring to be Colonists in Africa," and in 1881 he delivered another annual address, his subject being "The United States Government, the Founder and Necessary Patron of the Liberian Republic." During the long period of his service in this Society he was one of its most zealous, vigilant, and active members, seldom, if ever, absent from a meeting to which his official duties called him.

He was a man of marked ability, with a wide range of scholarship, and a pronounced optimist, who saw good and hope in everything; he planned and worked with a zeal that never flagged and an industry that never tired. Many of his labors were crowned with eminent success, and now that he has finished his life-work the epitaph universally accorded to him by all who knew him best is "Well done."

Joseph James Cheeseman, President of Liberia, died in Monrovia from an attack of epilepsy, at 10.30 o'clock p. m., November 12, 1896, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

He was born in Edina, Grand Bassa county, Liberia, March 7, 1843, of parents sent out by this Society as colonists from the United States, and he acquired all his education in the schools and college of Liberia. He was altogther a Liberian product, and during his lifetime was never out of Africa.

As a young man he engaged in mercantile business, in which he acquired a competence for himself, and his high character, intelligence, and energy gave him a prominent place among the merchants of the West Coast of Africa. During his earlier career he filled with great credit to himself and usefulness to his country many subordinate civil and military positions.

In 1868 he was ordained pastor of a Baptist church, and he officiated regularly in the pulpit until he became President of Liberia and occasionally while holding that office. He was elected President of Liberia and inaugurated in 1892, the presidential term of office being two years; was reëlected for a second term commencing in 1894, and for a third term commencing in 1896.

President Cheeseman's administration was signalized by the purchase of two gunboats, with which he was enabled to police the coast, to prevent the frequent violation of revenue laws, from which the government treasury had suffered for a long time, to secure peace, such as had never been known before, with the coast tribes of Sinoe and Cape Palmas, who had been in a state of chronic rebellion for many years, and to facilitate the transportation of the mails between isolated coast settlements; by supplying the country with much needed governmental subsidiary coins of silver and copper; by his earnest efforts to bring the aboriginal peoples of Liberia into more sympathetic and closer relations with those of colonial origin and into a more full participation in the government, to stimulate all to more active and intelligent industrial enterprises, and with these ends in view to build up and foster a better system of public schools.

He believed in the future development and progress of his race, and his life and character were a most creditable contribution to that end. Liberia and the Negro race may well honor the man and follow his example.

The Vice-President of the Republic, the Hon. William David Coleman, in the presence of the cabinet and other officers of the government, was inaugurated President at 12 o'clock m. on the day following the death of President Cheeseman, the 13th of November, to fill out the remainder of the term ending with 1897.

EMIGRATION.

The Society has made no expenditure on account of transportation of emigrants to Liberia during the year, but nevertheless this year's emigration was larger than it was in any other year for more than a quarter of a century. Of the hundreds of thousands of Negroes in the United States in a condition of abject poverty, in the employment of or wholly dependent upon others, living from hand to mouth, and anxious to emigrate to Liberia or any other country, it may safely be stated in general that neither themselves nor the country to which they might go would gain anything by the change. Especially is it true that in Liberia, a country, however bountifully endowed by nature, where the conditions are still primitive, the emigrant not sufficiently intelligent, courageous, and industrious to rely upon himself and by the sweat of his face to wrest his living and fortune from the soil had better remain where he can have the menial and subordinate employments and assistance found only in countries having the older and more advanced civilization which produces them, and the fact that he has in this country acquired the means to pay his own expenses in emigrating and establishing himself in Liberia is the best evidence that he possesses these essential qualifications.

Reliable information has been received that not less than 325 Negroes have emigrated from the United States to Liberia during the year, who went out of their own accord and received no pecuniary assistance from this Society or otherwise. Under the old system of colonization at the expense of this Society, it would have cost from $40,000 to $50,000 to have given these 325 persons free transportation to Liberia and support there for six months after their arrival.

Many of these emigrants are reported as pleased with their new homes and doing well. A few have returned to the United States and demonstrated their unfitness for the self-reliant, intelligent, and industrious life required of a pioneer in a new country. The number of those who have put their hand to the plow and looked back, however, has not been larger than accompanied the entire experience of the colonization of Liberia when this Society was accustomed to give colonists a free passage out

and furnish them with provisions for six months after their arrival.

A few have returned with the tales of privation, hardship, and sickness familiar from the time of the first settlement of Liberia, the only difference between then and now consisting in the fact that at the present time the Argus-eyed Associated Press, with its Briarean hands, catches the returning emigrant immediately upon his landing here, and forthwith scatters his wondrous and woeful tales throughout the length and breadth of the land. These exaggerated, and to some extent false, reports serve their authors in successfully appealing to the charitable for assistance, which is usually the first business in which the returned Liberian emigrant engages on his arrival in this country.

These things have so often been the subject of explanations by this Society that it may seem to be an idle task to repeat them, but an erroneous conclusion may be reached by many a casual reader of these reports who does not stop to reflect that Liberia is still a country with primitive conditions, and settlement in all such countries holds out the cross before the crown.

Speaking of the early settlement of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Palfrey, in his "History of New England," says:

"The labor of preparing habitations had scarcely begun when sickness set in, the consequence of exposure and bad food. Within four months it carried off nearly half the company. Of the one hundred and two who had arrived, six died in December, eight in January, seventeen in February, and thirteen in March. At one time there were only six or seven who had strength enough left to nurse the dying and bury the dead. The sick lay crowded in the unwholesome vessel or in half-built cabins heaped around with snowdrifts. The dead were interred in a bluff by the water side, the marks of burial being carefully effaced, lest the natives should discover how safe would be an attack; but through all this sorrow the lesson rehearsed at Leyden was not forgotten, that 'all great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages.'" * * *

"The Mayflower returned to England, sailing April 5, 1621. About that time Carver, one of the colonists who had been chosen governor, died, and was greatly lamented. His wife followed him in a few weeks. Bradford was put in Carver's place. Isaac

Allerton was chosen to be his assistant. Forty-six of the Mayflower passengers were now dead, including twenty-eight of the forty-eight adult men. Before the next arrival of immigrants in the autumn, fifty-one, just half of the first passengers, were dead." * * *

In 1630 a number of vessels arrived, bringing a thousand passengers; but, says Mr. Palfrey, "The reception of the newcomers was discouraging. More than a quarter part of their predecessors at Salem had died during the previous winter, and many of the survivors were ill or feeble. The faithful Higginson was wasting with a hectic fever, which soon proved fatal. There was a scarcity of all sorts of provisions, and not corn enough for a fortnight's supply after the arrival of the fleet. The remainder of a hundred and eighty servants, who, in the two preceding years had been conveyed over at a heavy cost, were discharged from their indentures to escape the expense of their maintenance. Sickness soon began to spread, and before the close of autumn had carried off two hundred of that year's emigration."

"With the wretched shelter which was all that the most recent emigrants had been able to provide, the winter, from the last week in December, when the cold set in, to the middle of February, proved grievously severe. Many died of the scurvy, which disease Winthrop thought especially affected such as fell into discontent and hankered after their former condition in England. Suffering from want of food was added to the distresses of the time."

In an address delivered before this Society at the annual meeting in 1834, touching this subject, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen said:

"As one illustration, I have collated the prominent incidents connected with the colony planted at Jamestown, Virginia, in May, 1607. It then consisted of one hundred persons, which number before September of that year was reduced to fifty, and soon after to thirty-eight, when a reinforcement of one hundred and twenty arrived. In 1609 a further addition of one hundred and fifty persons was made, and the colony then amounted to five hundred souls; but by imprudence, extravagance, and dissipation they were reduced in six months to sixty persons. In 1611 the colony had increased to two hundred; in 1622 it had become still more populous, when it was attacked by the

Indians, and three hundred and forty-seven men, women, and children were destroyed. The company which had been chartered was dissolved and the colony taken into the hands of the King and enjoyed the care and protection of the Crown. The venerable historian of those times (Chief Justice Marshall) gives the conclusion of the matter as it stood in 1624: 'About £150,000 sterling had been expended in planting the colony and more than 9,000 persons had been sent from Europe to people it, and yet at the end of seventeen years the population was reduced to 1,800 persons.' "

We take leave of this topic with the statement that the going out to Liberia of all those emigrants who have shown their backs to the little Republic and returned to the United States, whether paying their own expenses or receiving charitable assistance from others, was a palpable mistake, and their early leave-taking was for the good of Liberia.

The project of forming a new settlement of emigrants on the higher lands between the falls at the head of navigation on the St. Paul river and Mount Coffee has made some progress under the direction of Professor Cook. He reports that the farm at Mount Coffee, which it is proposed to make a model for the instruction of new settlers in that region, is being cleared up and cultivated and about 10,000 coffee trees are now growing, as well as a variety of other crops and fruit trees.

The Liberian government at the last session of its legislature made a grant to the Society of the lands to the depth of one-half mile on each side of the wagon road proposed to be constructed between White Plains, located at the Falls of the St. Paul river, and Mount Coffee, a distance of about 10 miles, for colonization and other purposes.

People in other parts of Liberia are watching this enterprise with much interest and are anxious to avail themselves of all its practical and successful features.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

A successful effort has been made to interest the younger and better educated generation of Negroes of the United States in the welfare of Liberia and the exceptional opportunities it now offers to their race, if they have any aspirations for an independent and prosperous government in any part of the great

continent of Africa, which now is passing rapidly into the hands of the white races, much of it evidently to remain under their control for a long time to come. To one familiar with the changes that the map has already undergone and which are still progressing, it is clearly evident that Liberia furnishes the last chance and hope of accomplishing so desirable an object.

It is to this class of Negroes that we must look for any substantial strengthening of Liberia by immigration from this country, and therefore we heartily welcome the inquiries for information received from students who have recently graduated from or who are still pursuing their studies in higher industrial and technical schools.

Of late intelligent inquiries for information about Liberia, accompanied by earnest expressions of a desire to make that country their field of practical professional work, have come from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other schools of like character. Under the pressure of the fierce competition and struggle for place in this country, it is quite certain that the increasing number of young Negroes educated in such schools will more and more turn their attention to Liberia, where their services are greatly needed and where they will not be driven to the wall by unequal competition with the white race.

Bulletins Nos. 8 and 9, the former containing an up-to-date map of Africa, have been issued and distributed in response to calls for information. An effort has been made to present in these publications not only the latest information concerning Liberia, but also to include the most interesting and recent news and discussions relating to the whole continent of Africa and the Negro race. The future of Liberia is so bound up with that of the latter that no intelligent and comprehensive discussion of her interests can ignore this environment.

A large number of copies of Professor O. F. Cook's excellent "Third Report" to the New York Society, furnished through the courtesy of that Society, have also been distributed, and all letters of inquiry about Liberia, daily received, are promptly answered with the best information obtainable.

Our extensive exchange list brings to us the best foreign and domestic publications relating to all movements in Africa—political, commercial, and missionary—and the progress of the Negro race here and elsewhere.

COMMERCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA.

Modern commerce not only opens roads for the advance of Christianity and civilization, but, taken as a whole, is a great civilizer itself. It owns the steam-engines and the electric batteries of the nineteenth century, builds the steamboats and the railroads, and stretches the telegraphic wires and cables to the most remote regions of the globe, thus bringing the entire human family into fraternal business and social relations. When the day's work is done, we now take up our evening newspapers and read a reliable account of the important events that have taken place during the day in all parts of the world.

One reason for the slow progress of Liberia, settled by colonists from the United States, has been the very slight intercourse between the two countries, commercial and otherwise. In fact, it is of comparatively recent date that the commerce of this country with the whole of Africa was hardly worthy of notice by the statistician.

It is therefore highly encouraging to the friends of Liberia to notice in the "Monthly Summary of Finance and Commerce of the United States," September, 1896, prepared by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, the following significant statistics of our trade with Africa for the first nine months of the year 1896 compared with the same period for 1895:

Exports from the United States to Africa, January to September, Inclusive.

	1895.	1896.	Increase.
Agricultural implements	$257,112	$348,655	$91,543
Wheat	111,033	1,556,662	1,445,629
Flour	44,474	729,731	685,257
Carriages and cars	98,436	262,432	163,996
Cotton cloth	345,798	697,902	352,104
Miscellaneous machinery	830,372	1,056,878	226,506
Mineral and cotton-seed oil	694,729	922,932	228,203
Meats—canned, fresh, salted, etc	141,880	333,306	191,426
Lumber	822,963	1,110,997	288,034

There was also a marked increase in the quantity of other exports—bicycles, fruits and nuts, builders' hardware and tools, sewing machines, leather, spirits of turpentine, seeds, tobacco,

books, etc.—and the imports from Africa showed a corresponding increase.

Liberia's commerce is, of course, a small affair as yet, but it is to be regretted that it is almost entirely in the hands of the English and Germans, whose steamships on the west coast of Africa touch frequently and regularly at Liberian ports, and some of whose enterprising merchants are located in the more prominent seaport towns of the little Republic.

American goods are preferred by the Liberians, and are now used to a considerable extent, but they are purchased second-hand in Liverpool and Hamburg instead of New York and Baltimore.

EDUCATION.

Our agent in Liberia, Mr. Julius C. Stevens, has devoted his services largely to the improvement of the common schools.

President Cheeseman appointed him Commissioner of Education for a part of Montserrado county, a position which gave him official standing and authority in his work.

He reports that the expense of purchasing and maintaining two gunboats and bringing the coast tribes of natives into subjection to the authority of the government has interfered with the prompt payment of teachers for their services, and in this way, to some extent, impaired that efficiency and usefulness of the schools which otherwise might have been realized.

The Executive Committee of this Society, through Mr. Stevens, offered to pay a salary of not exceeding $200 a year for a teacher whenever and wherever the citizens of Liberia would establish a new school, build a school-house, furnish it, and provide for its incidental expenses, the schools to be under the supervision of our agent in Liberia, and to make regular reports of their condition, attendance, and progress to this Society as vouchers for the payment of the money.

Under this arrangement a greatly needed new school was established at Greenville, Sinoe county, and opened on the 1st day of May last. It was named the Graham school, in honor of the donor of the fund from the income of which is paid the salary of the teacher. A satisfactory report of the first quarter, ended the 31st day of July last, has been received from Mr.

Stevens, and the money to pay the salary of the teacher has been forwarded.

He also reports that the citizens of Royesville and Brewerville, in Montserrado county, have selected and secured the land suitable for sites, commenced the work of building school-houses, and expect to complete them and be ready to comply with the terms of our offer early in the present year.

From these statements it appears that the policy of this Society to use its limited educational funds in such a way as to stimulate the Liberians to greater activity in their own behalf is meeting with their approval and coöperation.

The Hall school at Cape Palmas, in Maryland county, has continued in successful operation. The reports of the teacher, Mr. Samuel J. Dossen at present, are received regularly by this Society, and show an aggregate annual attendance of about 75 pupils and an average number on the roll of about 50 pupils, among whom are included a considerable number of youths belonging to the native tribes.

At its last session the legislature of Liberia granted to this Society 1,000 acres of land contiguous to the 200 acres which it already held at Beulah, making a total of 1,200 acres now held in trust for All Saints' Hall school. Prof. O. F. Cook visited the place at the request of this Society and made a most favorable report on its eligibility for an industrial institution in which horticulture and agriculture should receive prominent attention.

The Executive Committee, however, do not consider the fund held in trust for the benefit of this school large enough at present to justify them in undertaking to prepare the necessary buildings and commence such a school as they contemplate and hope to see established eventually in this place.

The scholarship supported in Gammon Theological Seminary by the "Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., fund" was given to John D. Whitaker, A. B., reported to be one of the brightest and most promising students in that institution, with the understanding that when his studies are completed his services are to be devoted to his race in Africa, and, if practicable, in Liberia.

The supplying of school text-books and appliances for the schools of Liberia at the wholesale cost prices in this country is still continued through our agent, Mr. Stevens.

CONCLUSION.

When our civil war ended and the Negro slave was set free, and his rights as a full citizen guaranteed by constitutional amendments, it was expected by his ardent friends that he would speedily take his place abreast of the white man at the close of this century. A generation has passed and that expectation has not been realized. There has been progress, but such as clearly to demonstrate that the development of a race is a gradual growth of centuries rather than the political event of a year.

The philanthropic founders of this Society thought that to set a Negro free, place him on the coast of Africa, from whence he originally came, protect him from outside interference, and furnish him a little advice and assistance were to make a nineteenth century Anglo-Saxon of him. The expectations of these men were not founded upon the historical experiences of other races and nations, and hence there has been disappointment at the slow progress of Liberia.

The first little settlement of Liberia was made on the West Coast of Africa, near the mouth of the Montserrado river, in the midst of hostile tribes of natives, April 25, 1822.

With only such protection and assistance as this Society, without any governmental standing and authority, could render, the little colony for twenty-five years had a hard struggle to overcome a hostile African coast climate and still more hostile neighboring savages, whose chief source of gain, the slave trade, was being broken up by these newcomers.

For reasons not necessary to be recited here, it became necessary for the colony to have a recognized standing among the nations of the world, and accordingly Liberia, on the 26th day of July, 1847, published a declaration of independence and adopted a constitution for a republican form of government. The first half century of her existence as an independent nation will be completed on the 26th day of July next, and while there is much in the history of that period that is disappointing, there is also much that deserves high appreciation and inspires hope and confidence in the future.

Liberia has maintained her form of government, through all the vicissitudes to which it has been subjected, without revolution or violence. One administration has succeeded another in

the legal and orderly way prescribed by her constitution and laws, and when vacancies in the important offices of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the government have occurred, men of a good degree of ability and fitness have always been found to fill them.

In the earlier history of the country traffic with the native tribes of the hinterlands was almost the only occupation from which the people derived money, but in recent years coffee-raising has been taking its place—an industry requiring but little capital or machinery, and in which the great body of her citizens can profitably engage.

Mr. Heard, the United States consul general at Monrovia, under date of September 25, 1896, reported to the State Department as follows:

"The producing and exporting of Liberian coffee is becoming a subject of great concern to the farmers of this Republic. The phenomenal increase in its production is worthy of consideration. The coffee exported during the fiscal year 1886 amounted to 600,000 pounds, while the exports for the year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to 3,000,000 pounds. Farmers, merchants, and people generally have turned their attention to coffee-growing. While no American ships touch at any Liberian port, yet more than one-fifteenth of the coffee produced is shipped to the United States via Liverpool. Coffee is the largest export, yet palm oil, palm kernels, piassava, and rubber are shipped in great quantities. If ships from the United States touched at Monrovia, Bassa, and Cape Palmas, half of the imports would be American, and in turn the exports would go to the United States. The people, save the few Europeans residing here, prefer American produce. The reason for this preference is that the people are immigrants from the United States and in habits and life are American. A direct line of steamers from New York or Boston, touching at this port once in two months, would be a paying enterprise."

The attention which scientists of this and other countries have been giving to Liberia during the last few years promises to be of great benefit in making the unutilized wealth and opportunities of the country better known. Between the years 1880 and 1887 Professor J. Büttikofer, a well-known scientist of Leyden, spent some three years in Liberia investigating its geography

and natural history and the ethnography of its aboriginal races. His report, published in German, in two large volumes, contains a most comprehensive, accurate, and interesting account of the flora and fauna of the country and the social life and character of the people, and it is much to be regretted that an English republication has not appeared in this country.

Since 1891 Professor O. F. Cook, an American scientist, with two assistants, has spent much of his time in Liberia, and has made three valuable reports to the New York Colonization Society, under whose auspices he went out. These reports have been published. Very recently the Smithsonian Institution has sent out with Professor Cook Mr. Rolla P. Currie, a young American scientist, who is to obtain natural history and ethnological objects for the National Museum and also to pay attention to protective mimicry, especially among insects.

Outside of Liberia, especially in South Africa, many American mining engineers and scientists are now to be found. Dr. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, has recently returned from an extensive study of the gold resources of South Africa, and reports that "the Transvaal Republic contains the largest gold deposits in the world. Within fifteen miles of Johannesburg there is an amount of gold, practically in sight, estimated to be worth $3,500,000,000, or nearly as much as the entire volume of gold coin now in the world. The gold is extraordinarily uniform, as uniform as coal in an ordinary deposit, as shown by shafts which have been sunk to a depth of 1,800 feet, and diamond drillings which have gone still further. At present the gold is being taken out at the rate of $100,000,000 a year."

It is fortunate for Liberia that the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States has always taken so deep an interest in her welfare and has been so liberal in the men and money she has furnished for religious and educational work in that country. The recent appointment of one of her most able and vigorous men, the Rev. Joseph C. Hartzell, D. D., bishop of Africa promises still better things for Liberia from this source. His well-known services in similar work for the Negro in the United States is a guarantee of like success in Africa. He is now on his way to Liberia, and has expressed a desire to coöperate with this Society in promoting the best interests of that country. He proposes, among other practical schemes, to establish a general

hospital in Monrovia, and through it to bring about better professional attention to the needs of the sick and a more intelligent observance of the laws of health in that tropical climate.

An unprejudiced examination of all the facts will furnish no reason for despairing of Liberia's future. In no part of the world has the Negro during the same time done better, if so well. The Negroes of Liberia, taken as a whole, are today more competent for independent self-government than those of any other part of the world, and their social and material condition more favorable than generally found elsewhere.

When Professor Cook first visited that country he was wholly unfamiliar with the character and condition of the great body of the Negroes in the United States and his views of the Liberians were somewhat pessimistic. A longer sojourn with them has modified his first partial impressions, and while in this country last summer he made an extensive tour through the Southern States for the express purpose of studying the character and condition of the Negroes in our Southern States, and has published the following comparative statement:

"There are so many cases of success among the emigrants who have combined energy with intelligence as to make it absolutely sure that men of that kind can go to Liberia with a reasonable hope of bettering their condition. The condition of the Liberian population *as a whole* is probably *far* superior to that of any Negro community of equal size in the United States, notwithstanding the example and impetus which the Negro is supposed to gain from white contact. As an instance, I found that in a Southern community of this country about 2,000 people, of whom about one-third were white, there was only one Negro who would compare in material prosperity with the first 200 of any section of country occupied by 2,000 Liberians, and this man was said not to have prospered honestly. From this it might be inferred that the chances of success in Liberia are about 200 to 1 as compared with the United States. This is, however, misleading, for the men who have succeeded in Liberia have, as a rule, possessed more than the average intelligence and perseverance, though it may with propriety be maintained that they would never have displayed these qualities to any such degree had they remained in the United States. This is in line with another fact that has often struck me very forcibly, that there

are in the United States many Negroes leading an uncomfortable, hand-to-mouth existence who are evidently the superiors of men who occupy almost infinitely preferable stations in Liberia. I have no doubt that the difference is largely due to the fact that life in Liberia is, notwithstanding its numerous difficulties, far better calculated to call forth manly qualities and encourage sustained effort than any conditions to be found by the Negro in the United States. I have often said and still firmly believe that if I were a Negro I would make my home in Liberia. I feel certain about this, not so much because of the better opportunities of material prosperity, but because, after a wide acquaintance with Liberians and a vivid realization of their many deficiencies, I find them far more respectable altogether than Negroes I have met in the United States, with the rarest exceptions."

ENGLAND'S WORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

* * * The value of missionaries as pioneers of the civilization which this country seems impelled to extend in some instinctive race movement over the waste uncultivated tracts of the earth cannot be overestimated. These pioneers do not stop to ask whether it will pay to adventure their lives and their funds in these remote countries. They start on their self-imposed mission without *arrière pensée.* Here they fail, there they succeed. If they die, nobody takes much notice, and two men are always ready to supply one man's place. They make all the experiments and others reap the profit. On the results of their researches commerce is able to decide its timid steps, and eventually we possess sufficient data on which to determine whether it is right and necessary for the government to seal with its intervention the work which these missionaries began.

The missionary societies working in Nyassaland soon decided that industrial teaching was to accompany religious instruction, and that to this end great efforts should be made to turn to advantage the rich soil and tropical climate by the cultivation of products likely to be of commercial value; and, further, that the love of trade which all Negro tribes possess should be encouraged, to the detriment of the traffic in slaves, by the establishment of a more lawful commerce. Consequently it may be said

that from the womb of the missions were born the African Lakes Company, the first corporation trading in Nyassaland, and the coffee-planting industry, which now numbers nearly 100 representatives.

* * * In case it may be thought that the only results of our administration of this part of Africa have been the multiplication of officials and the creation of posts for the employment of our fellow-countrymen, I might give you the following particulars to satisfy you that the growth of the administration has merely kept pace with the increasing development and prosperity of the British Central Africa Protectorate. In 1891, when we commenced this direct administration, the total trade of Great Britain with British Central Africa scarcely reached the annual value of £30,000. At the present time the trade is over £100,000 in value per annum, the exports having risen from £3,000 in 1891 to nearly £20,000 in 1896, much of this being represented by coffee grown in the country. Our local revenue from all sources in 1891 was £1,700 per annum. During the financial year ending March 31, 1896, our local revenue exceeded £22,000, and I am informed, since my departure on leave of absence, that the increase in local revenue under almost every head is most gratifying, and leads us to hope that before many years are past we shall be entirely independent of any subsidy from the pocket of the British tax-payer. In 1891 the Europeans in the British Central Africa Protectorate scarcely exceeded 90 in number. They now amount to about 300, of whom about 100 are connected with the planting industry. In 1891 there were three steamers on Lake Nyassa and three small steamers on the Lower Shiré and Zambesi, only one of which was bigger than a steam launch. On the Zambesi and the Shiré in the present year we have 16 steamers and 46 barges and cargo-boats plying between the port of Chinde on the coast and the British frontier on the Shiré river. On the Upper Shiré and Lake Nyassa the number of British steamboats has been increased from three to eight. The steamers placed on the Zambesi, moreover, are many of them comfortable passenger boats with ample accommodation, very different to the miserable little craft which first panted and puffed on that river in the pioneer days.

The survey for the railway from the Portuguese frontier on the Ruo to the Upper Shiré through the planting districts of the

Shiré highlands has been completed, and arrangements are in progress for the formation of a strong company to construct a railway by which it is intended eventually to reach Lake Nyassa. In connection with this scheme an Anglo-Portuguese syndicate has been formed for the further construction of a railway from the good port of Quilimane, in Portuguese East Africa, to the British frontier on the Ruo. Surveys have equally been made to fix the route that this railway shall follow; so that before long we may reasonably hope that there will be a continuous line of railway from the East Coast of Africa to the healthy districts where the coffee-planters are established in our Protectorate. I cannot lay too great stress on the importance of this railway communication with the coast. Much of the British Central Africa Protectorate is healthy for European settlers, but it is separated from the Indian ocean by excessively unhealthy tracts of low-lying country, which have to be traversed at present on foot and on river steamers, the traveler being compelled to remain for days or weeks in districts reeking with malaria. The result is that, arriving from the outer world, he passes through this unhealthy country before he reaches the healthy uplands of British Central Africa, and therefore not infrequently has to work off a certain amount of fever thus acquired. Likewise, when he wishes to return from Central Africa to Europe, he must again pass through this fever zone. On the other hand, if he could get into the train at the coast port and in a few hours be whirled up to the delightful hill country of the Shiré highlands, and in like measure return thence to Europe by railway and ocean steamer, this beautiful country now being opened up would be as little dangerous to settlers as Ceylon.

* * * As regards the capabilities of the natives for seizing on European inventions and acquiring European knowledge, I might again remind you that nearly all the telegraph clerks working on the African Transcontinental Line, established by Mr. Rhodes in our territory, are Negroes and natives of the country, chosen from the mission schools. In like manner the printing at the Government Press and at all mission presses is done almost entirely by natives. In the service of the administration we have only one European printer, our other six printers being mission boys. The natives are equally clever at picking up the modes of signalling by the heliograph. Many

of our native soldiers are now able to read and write. Our principal storekeeper at Zomba, who has to keep elaborate accounts, is a native of the country, an absolute savage and a freed slave only a few years ago. All the forestry work, all the building work, road cutting, and preparing of natural-history specimens are done by natives under the European heads of different departments. It is not our object to unnecessarily multiply European officials, but, on the contrary, to do as we are doing in India, to train up the natives of the country to a reasonable amount of local government and administration. It has also been an object especially dear to myself from the very commencement of my administration to employ in this great task not only natives of England but natives of India, and in this respect I have been greatly aided by the government of that mighty dependency. Although Indians are not altogether free from sickness in Africa, they yet stand the climate on the whole better than Europeans, and in several matters they are, of course, far superior to the Negroes at the present time in intelligence, industry, and fidelity. In many posts, therefore, they may be considered to represent a middle class between the European official and the Negro artisan. In 1891 there was not a single Indian trader in the country. There are now fifty-nine, who are doing a flourishing business which does not in any way impinge on European interests. In regard to these Indian traders, they are especially useful in encouraging articles of commerce in the infancy of their development. They will buy up small quantities of beeswax or rubber or oil-seeds, which are hardly worth the attention of a European who is trading on a large scale. So useful have the Indian traders been in this respect that I sincerely wish their numbers may largely increase, and that those who are not satisfactorily placed in the Transvaal or Natal may give British Central Africa a trial, where they will be thoroughly welcomed by the administration.

* * * The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland already exercises control over a considerable portion of tropical Africa, and seems destined almost inevitably to extend its political influence over a still larger area of the Dark Continent before it is closed up to the spheres of influence of the other civilized powers; for it may be taken as a certain axiom that within a very short period from now there will be no independ-

ent native State existing in Africa—that is to say, no State sufficiently powerful and civilized to stand alone without the overlordship of some European power, or without a European guarantee for its local independence. Such a culmination of the white man's power is inevitable. It has already occurred in Australia and in the Pacific and over the whole of North and South America, and Asia is similarly threatened, though it is possible that several Asiatic States may be able to stand alone and even reach to and maintain themselves on the same level of civilization as the white man's countries; yet even this result is being brought about by their following the advice of the European and imitating his modes of government and adopting his inventions.

But in Africa, after more than sixteen years' acquaintance with its black and brown races, I cannot believe that there is any Negro or Negroid State which is capable by its own inherent qualities of maintaining its absolute independence of European influence or control. As the population of the earth increases and more and more space is taken up for human settlement, the white races are forced to concern themselves with the affairs of Africa. No present unhealthiness of climate, no sturdy opposition on the part of the black man, can avail to prevent this movement, though here and there it may receive a local check. I do not believe in the eventual colonization of *tropical* Africa by the white man, though I certainly hold the opinion that Africa south of the Zambesi and Africa north of the Sahara desert will be white men's countries, as they are already to a great extent; but within the tropics the bulk of the population will be and remain of Negro or Negroid stock, mingled it may be to some slight extent with white and yellow immigrants. Yet, alone and unaided by the advice and control of a European power, I do not think the black man can work out his ultimate redemption from a low and stagnating condition of humanity. In some respects I think the tendency of the Negro for several centuries past has been an actually retrograde one. As we come to read the unwritten history of Africa by researches into languages, manners, customs, traditions, we seem to see a backward rather than a forward movement going on for some thousand years past—a return toward the savage and even the brute. I can believe it possible that had Africa been more isolated from

contact with the rest of the world, and cut off from the immigration of the Arab and the European, the purely Negroid races, left to themselves, so far from advancing towards a higher type of humanity, might have actually reverted by degrees to a type no longer human, just as those great apes lingering in the dense forests of western Africa, into which they are, relatively speaking, quite recent immigrants from Asia and Europe, have become in many respects degraded types that have known better days of larger brains and smaller tusks and stouter legs. Fortunately for the black man, in all his varieties but two or three of the most retrograde, he is not too far gone for recovery and for an upward turn upon the evolutionary path—a turn which, if resolutely followed, may with steady strides bring him upon a level at some future day with the white and yellow species of man. It is therefore most decidedly to his ultimate advantage, quite as much as to the satisfaction of our pride and the profit of our commerce, that we should take him into tutelage and in every sense of the word make a man of him. Our abstention from this great task from any fastidious doubts as to our right to undertake it will not ultimately have the effect, desirable or undesirable, of leaving the black man to his own resources, but it will merely result in our place being taken in this almost instinctive movement—a movement which, without much exaggeration of language, might be ascribed to the inspiration of the power that rules the universe—by other European nations less afflicted than we are with self-doubting and self-depreciation. We have our hot and our cold fits in the affairs of the empire as in matters of internal politics and commerce. The cold fits are very naturally caused by temporary defeats and checks and disappointments, and the disenchantment occasioned by the slow realization of great hopes and the mistakes made by even the best-intentioned of our agents. Yet no truthful person casting his eye back over England's record in Africa from the beginning of this century can refuse the conclusion that, on the whole, our work there has been a magnificent one, and as beneficial to the black races as to our own political position and our commerce. In other parts of the world's land surface there may have been causes for sentimental regret at the disappearance or diminution of the feebler races of mankind before the advent of the European colonist, but it is absolutely unfair to state that the outcome of European in-

tervention in the affairs of Africa has been the same in regard to the African races. What have been the results of our direct government of our indirect administration of various portions of West Africa? Have we not created at the Gambia, at Sierra Leone, on the Gold Coast, at Lagos, on the Niger, and in the Niger Coast Protectorate civilized States where life and property are reasonably secure, where the commerce, equally beneficial to England and to Africa, now attains the annual figure of approximately £4,700,000 in exports and imports; where churches have been built, colleges established, and—most important feature of all—the black man has been in many cases educated to take part in the local government of his native land? It is hardly necessary to recall to the remembrance of the Fellows of this Institute the existence of fellow-members employed in the government service of West Africa who are of pure African blood, but who are as competent as any Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman present to discuss questions connected with the empire, and who in several cases have held, and at present hold, posts of sufficient importance to receive the honor of knighthood. There have been black bishops in the native church; there are black lawyers, journalists, and doctors. The white man's presence in these countries is in the highest degree justifiable, since it has resulted in no confiscation of the black man's land, but in his being taught to develop its resources in the most profitable manner; since it has been followed by the steady suppression of the slave trade and diffusion of real and reasonable liberty among all men without distinction of race or color. That there may have been slight attendant evils is quite possible, though again I assert that a fair and unprejudiced examination would declare the evil to be enormously outweighed by the good. Much has been said and written about the trade in alcohol, but, although I am almost fanatical in my advocation of the white man's abstaining from alcoholic stimulants in tropical countries, I do not range myself among those who assert that great harm has been done in West Africa or in South Africa by the liquor traffic. In the first place, if the black man does not use alcohol imported from Europe he sets to and makes it for himself from the grains of his own country, or from the fermented sap of the several species of palm indigenous to Africa. Secondly, I hold the opinion,

strangely enough, that although alcohol is most harmful to the white man, it is in small doses actually beneficial to the Negro if he inhabits hot, low-lying districts of a malarial nature. In tropical America I believe the Negroes have almost unrestricted access to alcoholic stimulants without any ill results; on the West Coast of Africa and in certain parts of South Africa I understand it is the same; yet who can with truth assert that any of these black races have been injured thereby? Where can you find finer physical specimens of humanity than the Kruboys of West Africa or the Kaffirs of Natal? Strange to say, from my own experience, drunkenness among the Negroes along the West Coast of Africa, where we hear of millions of gallons of spirits being imported, is a much less common incicident than in the Protectorate of British Central Africa, where we so rigidly control the importation and sale of alcohol that I may safely assert the Negro inhabitants of this Protectorate get no strong waters from the white man. They are quite content to get drunk on their own brewings and distillations from Indian corn, sorghum, millet, and palm sap.

* * * I have already referred to the undoubted increase of population in those districts governed or controlled by us. As regards the increase of trade between the British dominions and Africa which has taken place since the beginning of our work in Africa a century ago, I might remind you that, whereas the total trade of the British dominions with Africa in 1796 was, as far as I can calculate, only £600,000 in value, the total trade of the British dominions with British Africa, or Africa under British control, at the present time reaches a total of £40,400,000; while as against about 105 Englishmen employed as officials or traders in Africa in 1796 there are approximately 1,250 officials in 1896, in addition to which there are about 204,000 colonists or settlers of British origin settled in various parts of the Dark Continent, the bulk of whom are now native-born. The increase in officials may at first seem to be a thing to sneer at, though I regard it as a most important factor, and one of our chief rewards for meddling in the affairs of Africa, that such meddling, which I maintain to be in the long run highly beneficial to the persons interfered with, repays us in a reasonable manner by giving us the means of employing an increasingly large number

of the best type of young Englishmen, Irishmen, or Scotchmen out of their own country.

BRITISH TRADE WITH BRITISH AFRICA.

British South Africa	£24,930,000
British West Africa	4,700,000
British East Africa	500,000
British Central Africa	100,000
British Egypt	10,170,000
	£40,400,000

BRITISH TRADE WITH NON-BRITISH AFRICA.

Morocco	£900,000
Algeria	900,000
Tunis	300,000
Tripoli	200,000
Congo, &c.	200,000
Portuguese East and West Africa	200,000
Elsewhere	50,000
	£2,750,000

—*Sir Harry H. Johnston, in Journal of Royal Colonial Institute.*

At the close of the war there were in the United States only three colored physicians; now there are about 800. Then there were only two colored lawyers; now there are 300. Then there were no colored teachers; now there are 2,041 in Virginia alone, and of these 1,130 are women, receiving on the average $26.86 per month. It was then against the law in many of the Southern States to teach a colored person how to read; now there are more than 25,000 colored teachers in the South. Since then more than 2,500,000 have learned to read and write, and about 1,500,000 are now in the public schools. There are 57 colored college presidents, 500 theological graduates in the ministry, and 2,500 other men who have studied for one or two years in theological seminaries and are now preaching. There are 65 dentists and 65 pharmacists. There are 200 newspapers and 4 magazines edited by colored men. In 1892 the colored people contributed $300,000 for education and paid taxes on property valued at $274,000,000. One hundred books on poetry, biography, religion, science, and general literature have been written by colored men; essays, poems, and other articles have been published in the leading magazines of the country. Four banks and 37 building and loan associations are also conducted by them.—*The Missionary Review of the World, December, 1896.*

THE EYES AND EARS OF WHITES AND BLACKS.

In a century distinguished above all others by humanitarian deeds, tendencies, and progress, by the substitution of thought for unreasoning impulse and of facts for sublimated theories, by growth in the practice, understanding, and the application of the principles of Christian socialism to the solution of civic problems, and by its interest in the education and uplifting of the masses, it is surprising that a subject of such vital importance to the intellectual development, the physical comfort, and the economic progress and prosperity of the individual and of the community as the maintenance of the integrity of the eye and ear should be so little understood and so generally neglected.

"It is scarcely possible," remarks the London *Lancet* (November 23, 1895), "to overrate the scientific and social results that might be achieved by systematic observations of the eye and ear."

An opinion which is especially confirmed by the result of the national neglect of these organs which is now apparent in their degeneration, is the increasing blindness and deafness and the prevailing ignorance and indifference concerning their condition and the power of vision and of hearing the normal eye and ear should possess.

"There is not one parent in 500," asserts Dr. R. B. Carter, F. R. C. S., of London, "who has the smallest notion how large a capital letter a child ought to see clearly at 100 feet distant, or to whom the phrase 'Natural acuteness of vision' would convey any definite idea whatever" (a remark which is equally applicable as to the natural capacity of the ear).

The normal eye is capable of distinguishing a capital letter $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in height at a distance of 6 meters, and one $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height at 60 meters, or (195 feet).

We have not only to contend with the ignorance of parents, an ignorance by no means confined to the lower classes, but with their indifference, neglect, and gross carelessness in apparent and positive affections of the eye and ear.

"Perhaps no subject," says Dr. Edward Reynolds, of Boston, one of the earliest eye specialists in this country, "so intimately connected with the vital interests of learning, has been so much neglected."

Systematic and accurate examinations of the eye and ear will be found invaluable in discovering defects that cannot be remedied in later life; in correcting erroneous and disastrous opinions as to the intellectual capacity of children; in remedying sympathetic complaints resulting from visual or aural defects; in detecting eye strain or excessive abnormal innervation of the eye muscles, which, Dr. Chalmer Prentice asserts, "depletes the nerve centers and gives rise to brain irritation, altering the disposition and forcibly changing the character of the person affected" ("The eye in its relation to health," Dr. C. Prentice); in the discovery of imperfect hygienic environments, the prevention of contagion, and in the determination of the future occupations of those seriously affected.

The world laments the loss of sight or of hearing, but bestows less thought upon their cultivation, improvement, and preservation than upon the dress, the teeth, the complexion, or upon the temporary indisposition of a valuable horse or dog.

"Experience has taught me," declares Dr. Bezold, of Munich, "that a large number of ear diseases found in adults may be traced back to affections recovered from in childhood, and I felt impelled in every one of my reports to reiterate the importance of therapeutical measures, especially at that age" (Arch. Otol., N. Y., vol. xiv, pp. 158, 209).

Otologists are in accord in declaring that the enfeeblement of the sense of hearing is in youth; that all noise is not only an *empêchement* to the ear, but destructive in its ceaseless assaults upon that sensitive organ.

"That the fact that those who live and are taught amid confusing and discordant noises become gradually accustomed to them is no evidence that they are any the less destructive to the ear and exhausting to the brain and nervous system" (J. H. Gardner, M. D., *N. A. Review*, September, 1896), and that in middle life at least one among every three men can no longer hear well and normally in one ear.

Bürkner found that children under their fifteenth year made 22.2 per cent. of all his ear patients. In Dr. Bezold's (Munich) practice, of 3,846 patients 20.5 per cent. were under 15 years of age. Dr. C. T. Blake, of Boston, who is among the foremost otologists in the country, states that of 8,715 cases of ear disease occurring in his practice, 25 per cent. were under 14 years of age,

and all were pupils in the public schools. Dr. Weil is of the opinion that even in the school years disturbances of hearing increase with age, while Bezold did not find any material increase in that period.

A recent examination of 5,000 children by direction of Superintendent A. S. Whitney, of Saginaw, Michigan, resulted in the discovery that between 50 and 60 per cent. were found with subnormal vision and 20 to 25 per cent. with defective hearing. Visual defects vary in degree with the class, the age, the environment, and the character of the school-room. It is said that of 14,000 white children examined in England and America an average of 35.12 per cent. had subnormal vision, varying in different localities from 25 to 55 per cent.

All authorities who have given attention to this subject agree in the opinion that the proper field in which we are to combat and root out this ignorance of the treatment of organs whose preservation is of preponderant importance to the health, comfort, enjoyment, mental development, culture, and success in life of the individual, as well as of great economic value to the community in reducing the number of expensive institutions and in the prevention of pauperism, is the public school. Mr. Whitney, of Michigan, pertinently says: "When we consider that from a fifth to a fourth of all the pupils in our public schools are suffering from defective hearing or eyesight, and again consider the acknowledged stultifying effect of this misfortune upon their intellectual, business, and social life and their capacity for enjoyment, and further reflect, that with proper care and attention this number can be reduced to 2 per cent. of the attendance, it requires no very strong argument to show that vastly more practical good would be accomplished, to the credit of our humanity, by careful systematized examination and treatment of these defectives than by so much religious devotion to the abstract and the theoretical." (Superintendent A. S. Whitney in *Education*, Boston, April, 1896.)

The first scientific examination of the eyes of school children is said to have been made in 1861 by Professor Jaeger, of Vienna, who was soon followed by Dr. Cohn, of Breslau, in 1867, and Dr. Szokalski, of Paris. Desultory and independent examinations by individuals and school boards acting upon their own suggestion continued to be made, bringing to light and demon-

strating to the thinking public the necessity for regular, competent, and systematic examinations. Sweden, as usual, ready for every educational or scientific experiment promising to the public, ordered systematic observations of her school children in 1878, followed by Paris and other large French cities in 1879, and by Germany in 1884. Lausanne, in Switzerland, directed such an examination to be made in 1885, and in Zurich all the primary schools are visited by an oculist in the spring of each year.

In the year 1888 Dr. De Metz in Antwerp, Belgium, examined 7,000 children for the state of refraction and chromatic sense. In the same year a committee of the British Medical Association began a similar inquiry, and subsequently made a report upon 50,000 children, 35,000 of them belonging to London. A committee of that association also found on inquiry that eyesight was tested in but eight of the 483 boys' schools in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and in but six of the 129 girls' schools in England.

In 1891 the governors of King Edward VI schools in Birmingham, comprising 2,200 children of both sexes from 8 to 19 years of age, established a periodical examination of the eye and ear. Observations have also been made in Italy, Russia, Hungary, Roumania, and Buenos Aires. In the United States in a brief of a State law (modeled essentially upon the law creating the Massachusetts Board of Health) establishing the office of medical inspector of schools, read before the American Social Science Association in 1875, the subject of the examination of the eyes and ears was not even suggested, nor has the subject in 1896 yet been taken up by the National Council of Education.

In the year 1875 an independent examination of a small number was made in New York, which has since been followed by limited observations made in Hyde Park, Massachusetts; Worcester, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D. C.; California; Charleston, South Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; Baltimore, Maryland; Michigan, and probably in a few other places. In Boston, strange to relate, where we are accustomed to look for leadership in all matters humanitarian or educational, I am informed by Dr. Edward M. Hartwell, the director of physical training in the public schools, "that, although a corps of fifty physicians is daily employed in

limiting infectious diseases, no comprehensive and coherent examination of the eyes and ears has ever been made. It is still uncertain," concludes Dr. Hartwell, "whether we shall be able to have these investigations undertaken." I will add that Boston is at the moment interested in putting bath-rooms into her school-houses.

This very imperfect summary of the observations undertaken will, without making pretensions to accuracy, serve to show the genesis and the growth of the public appreciation of their great importance, and will also, I regret to say, show that that appreciation is not yet sufficiently general or vigorous to have moved a single one of our State boards of health or education to order systematic examinations.

An examination of the eyes and ears of 1,000 Washington school children, white and black, one-half of each race, and of all social conditions, was made last winter and spring by Dr. E. Oliver Belt, ophthalmologist, and Dr. Johnson Eliot, otologist, both well known and accomplished specialists, the memory tests being made of the same number by the writer of this paper and published elsewhere.

The observations were made in the fourth and fifth grades, the average of the whites in these grades being in the fourth, 10.63 years, and 11.40 years in the fifth, with extremes of 8 and 14 years, and of the blacks, 12 years in the fourth and 13.14 years in the fifth, with extremes of 8 and 18 years, an average difference in both grades together of 1.56 years in the two races.

The tests of vision were made with Snellen's charts or typographic scales, and of hearing with the watch and tuning-fork.

Of the 1,000 eyes of the whites, 16.60 per cent. had subnormal vision, including 7.2 per cent. with "defective" and "very defective" vision. (Those having $\frac{20}{40}$ to $\frac{20}{70}$ by Snellen's charts were classed as "defective," and those above $\frac{20}{70}$ as "very defective.")

Of the 1,000 ears, 19.50 per cent. had subnormal hearing, 4.9 per cent. being classed as "defective" and "very defective." ("Defective," $\frac{15}{50}$ to $\frac{35}{50}$; "very defective," below $\frac{15}{50}$.)

Of the 1,000 eyes of the "blacks," 20.6 per cent. had subnormal vision, including 7.3 per cent. with "defective" and "very defective" vision.

Of the 1,000 ears, 19.3 per cent. had subnormal hearing, 6.2

per cent. being "defective" and "very defective." Taken together, the visual defects were 3.46 per cent. greater in the blacks, the aural defects being nearly equal in both races (19.50 white, 19.03 black). The difference in the visual acuity and hearing of the right and left eye and ear was found to be very slight in either race.

	Subnormal.
Whites, 1,000 eyes	83 right, 83 left.
Blacks, 1,000 "	108 " 92 "
Whites, 1,000 ears	98 " 96 "
Blacks, 1,000 "	95 " 100 "

The sexual division of these subnormals was as follows:

Whites, eyes	60.85 per cent.,	female.
Blacks, "	57.70 "	"
Whites, ears	56.70 "	"
Blacks, "	43.30 "	"
Whites, eyes	39.15 "	male.
Blacks, "	42.30 "	"
Whites, ears	43.30 "	"
Blacks, "	56.70 "	"

While, as a whole, the racial difference in the distribution is slight, the maximum percentage of subnormal eyes in both races is found in the white female.

In the whites the female eye and ear are both the most defective, while in the blacks the female has the most defective eye and the male the most defective ear.

The males of the two races combined gave 40.72 per cent. in the eyes and 50 per cent. in the ears, the females 59.27 per cent. in the eyes and 50 per cent. in the ears.

Of the black subnormals but 66 per cent. could be classed as "dark," 28.11 per cent. as "medium," and 5.89 per cent. as "light" in color, while of the whole number of blacks 72 per cent. were "dark," 22.80 per cent. "medium," and 5.20 per cent. "light." Negroes of absolutely pure blood are, however, rarely found in the large centers of population.

The Washington school-rooms are well lighted and well ventilated, and the hygienic condition of the homes of the poorer classes is superior to that found in most cities of a like population, while the number of study hours is less and the number of exercise hours greater than in England, France, or Germany.

In the latter country especially the study hours of the *Volkschulen* are much longer than those in the United States, as a whole. The difference in the hours of Berlin and Washington is remarkable. The actual length of the school year in Berlin is 46 weeks; in Washington, 36 weeks. In Berlin the study hours are 32 per week; in Washington, 25 per week. In Berlin, 46 weeks of 32 hours equal 1,472 hours annually; in Washington, 36 weeks of 25 hours equal 900 hours annually—a difference of 572 hours annually, the Washington hours being but 61.14 per cent. of those of the Berlin schools. (For this comparison I am indebted to Dr. Addis, of the U. S. Bureau of Education.) "This difference is enormous, even when it is considered that the afternoon in Berlin is devoted to drawing and other accomplishment studies, which, however, are trying to the eyes and are no relief to the strain of the morning."

These facts will perhaps account for the comparatively low-rate percentage of subnormal aural and visual acuity found here.

In the rules of the public schools of the District of Columbia, under the heading, "Duties of Teachers," it is directed in assigning lessons for study at home that "no such lessons shall be assigned to pupils in the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth grades."

The lessons for the sixth or seventh grades shall not require more than one and a half hours, and for the eighth grade not more than two hours. Neither arithmetic, penmanship, or map drawing shall be assigned out of school hours. Where such study is required the work to be done shall be so definitely stated and so thoroughly explained by the teacher that intelligent pupils can master it without assistance."

While these rules may not be as precisely and rigorously enforced as they should be, they exert an influence in keeping the home work required within hygienic limits, judging from the results obtained.

It is highly probable also that the comparative noiselessness of the Washington streets and the quiet surroundings of the dwellings and school-houses (I remember but one flagrant exception), when compared with those of Berlin, London, New York, Boston, or Baltimore, will, in a measure, account for the small number of aural defects.

As to the visual defectives found elsewhere, Dr. A. St. Clair

Buxton reports an examination of 2,500 boys from the upper and middle classes in English grammar and other schools and in private practice, which resulted in finding 36.46 per cent. with defective vision (London *Lancet*, April 27, 1895).

Mr. Holmes Spicer in an East London school found 40 per cent. (Report Opth. Soc., London *Lancet*, May, 1894).

Dr. Dennett, at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, in 1,133 children, found 24 per cent. with defective vision; Dr. Pischl, of San Francisco, in 1,900 children, 30.48 per cent. defective; Dr. Minor, at Memphis, in 682 children, 25 per cent. defective; Dr. Ledbetter, in Birmingham, Alabama, in 512 scholars in grammar and high grades, 20.50 per cent. subnormal; Drs. Loring and Derby, of New York, in 2,265 eyes of children found 14 per cent. subnormal at the beginning and 39 per cent. at the close of their school years; Drs. Prout and Mathiewson, in 600 eyes in Brooklyn, New York, 37 per cent. at beginning and 40 per cent at close of school years.

"In Baltimore, where the vision of 53,000 children has been recently tested in the fourth and fifth grades, 51.50 per cent. were found to have subnormal or defective vision, and in all the grades examined the vision of 17.05 per cent. " was so poor as to demand investigation." (Official report.)

Messrs. Roosa and Emerson have shown to their satisfaction that but one in ten persons have absolutely normal vision. Obviously, however, no such general statement can be authoritatively made, as beside the insufficient data upon which to found such a statement, we have the common difficulties to contend with, the differing conditions of vision, the absence of uniformity in testing methods and of periodical examinations, the difference in the ages of those examined, their limited numbers, etc. While these data serve the admirable purpose of pointing out the general neglect of these organs, and of emphasizing the importance and necessity of greater attention to their defects, they fail to be of any great value as the foundation of general statements or for comparative purposes.

In the primitive races, especially in temperate regions, the sight and hearing are normal. In an examination of 161 male and 89 female Indians, from 8 to 22 years of age, of 27 different tribes, made at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 237 of the 250 had normal vision, the few defectives found being among the semi-civilized

Creeks. The Sioux, Kiowas, and Modocs have thus far escaped any taint of myopia. (Dr. Fox, *Phila. Med. Times*, vol. 12, p. 346.)

Alex. von Humboldt estimated the visual acuity of the South American Indians to be five times greater than ours. Dr. Büttikofer, the distinguished zoölogist of the Reichs Museum, Leyden, when in Africa a few years since, employed, in hunting, boys in preference to dogs, because of their keener vision and sense of smell. He says: "The young Negroes, or hunting boys, could, like scenting dogs, discover game in the dark, and their sharp eyesight and hearing enabled them to discover or hear the least movement." ("Reisebilder aus Liberia," J. Büttikofer, Leyden, 1890.)

Chatelain, in speaking of the high development of these faculties in the natives of Portuguese Angola, remarks: "The scenting of a stranger is not uncommon in a Negro entering a house." ("Folk Tales of Angola.")

The aborigines of Formosa distinguish fruits hidden in the thick foliage of the jungle by their odors, and detect by the smell those from which the bees have extracted the honey.

"The power of sight of the Waganda is extraordinary. It frequently excelled that of a 6-guinea field-glass. Their sense of hearing is also very acute." (Stanley, "Through the Dark Continent.")

These statements of the power of natural faculties in primitive conditions seem abundantly to sustain the contention of M. Hippel in his "Discours Académique," that intellectual culture and social progress are incompatible with sound bodily health and the perfection of natural faculties.

Félix Gras, the Provençal poet, voices this unpleasant truth in the words of the peasant Pascalet, who had never opened a book: "We, the poor—the very poor—can see in the dark."

The first examination of the ears of public-school children is said to have been made by W. Von Reichard, at Riga, in 1878, who found by the watch 22.03 per cent. defective.

Dr. Weil, of Stuttgart, tested 5,900 children by whispered speech (the hearing distance of the normal ear being from 65 to 80 feet) and found 30+ per cent. defective. Dr. Samuel Sexton, of New York, of 570 children (one-half black), found 13 per cent. defective. Mr. Morrell, of 491, found 25 per cent. defective; Dr. Bezold, of 1,200 children, ages 7 to 12, 26.5 per cent defective.

Dr. Gelle, of the children examined by him, found 22 per cent. with less than normal acuity of hearing. (Dr. Gelle, "*De L'Audition dans L'école.*")

Perhaps the most important and convincing evidence of the humanitarian and economic value of these examinations will be found in the ignorance and indifference developed by this Washington inquiry in all, but especially in the lower classes of society, as shown by the accompanying tables.

In the blacks it will be found that of all the eyes classed as "extremely defective," "very defective," and "defective," 43+ per cent. were "unknown to parent, teacher, and scholar," and of those classed as "extremely defective," or less than one-tenth normal vision, 22.50 per cent. were likewise unknown. In the ears of the blacks, 57 per cent. of all the defectives were "unknown" and 55 per cent. of the "very defectives," or those having less than one-third normal hearing.

In the whites the record is better. Of all the "defective" eyes, 34.28+ per cent. were "unknown" to all, and of the "very defectives," but 1 per cent. were in like manner unknown. In the ears of the whites less than 2 per cent. of all the "defectives" were "unknown," and of the "very defectives" none were "unknown." But with the knowledge of these existing defects the instances were very rare in either race in which the defectives were under treatment, a condition resulting, as above remarked, from ignorance and indifference and from poverty.

It has been generally observed that of the beginning of its defective hearing or eyesight the child is ignorant, and that a person may be deaf with one ear or have defective vision in one eye and yet hear and see so perfectly with the other as not to observe the defect. As the defects increase, faulty vision or hearing is mistaken for dullness or stupidity.

As Dr. Samuel Sexton has remarked regarding deafness, all degrees of deficiency impair the learning capacity of the pupil. "We are *a priori* justified," asserts Dr. Bezold, "in assuming that even a partial defect in hearing will find expression somehow in the mental development of the affected children," or, put in a different way, that the diminution in mental development will correspond closely to the degree of diminished hearing. "I have often," says Dr. Gelle, "had occasion to mention the frequency of the cases in which the pupil suffers from defective hear-

One thousand ears—white.	Number of cases.	Number of ears.	Right.	Left.	Unknown to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Known to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Unknown to teacher; known to parent and scholar.	Known to teacher and scholar; unknown to parent.	Unknown to parent and teacher; known to scholar.	Known to teacher; unknown to parent and scholar.
Very defective (— $\frac{1}{5}$).....	3	4	2	2	.....	3	.....	1	.....	.....
Defective ($\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$).....	32	46	26	20	9	27	4	.....	2	4

One thousand eyes—white.	Number of cases.	Number of eyes.	Right.	Left.	Unknown to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Known to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Unknown to teacher; known to parent and scholar.	Known to teacher and scholar; unknown to parent.	Unknown to parent and teacher; known to scholar.	Known to teacher; unknown to parent and scholar.
Extremely defective ($\frac{2}{200}$), $\frac{1}{10}$ normal vision...	9	10	4	6	1	8	1	.....	.....	.....
Very defective ($\frac{2}{100}$), $\frac{1}{5}$ normal vision.....	10	11	6	5	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Defective ($\frac{2}{40}$ to $\frac{2}{20}$).....	37	49	23	26	13	32	.....	.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	2

One thousand ears—black.	Number of cases.	Number of ears.	Right.	Left.	Unknown to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Known to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Unknown to teacher; known to parent and scholar.	Known to teacher and scholar; unknown to parent.	Unknown to parent and teacher; known to scholar.	Known to teacher; unknown to parent and scholar.	Known to parent; unknown to teacher and scholar.
Very defective (— $\frac{15}{50}$)	13	20	11	9	11	2	6	.....	.....	.....	1
Defective ($\frac{15}{50}$ to $\frac{35}{50}$)	26	38	21	17	22	8	6	.....	2	.....	.....

One thousand eyes—black.	Number of cases.	Number of eyes.	Right.	Left.	Unknown to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Known to parent, teacher, and scholar.	Unknown to teacher; known to parent and scholar.	Known to teacher and scholar; unknown to parent.	Unknown to parent and teacher; known to scholar.	Known to teacher; unknown to parent and scholar.	Known to parent and teacher; unknown to scholar.
Extremely defective ($\frac{20}{200}$)	16	22	12	10	5	12	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Very defective ($\frac{20}{100}$)	8	11	4	7	4	1	3	.....	1	.....	2
Defective ($\frac{20}{40}$ to $\frac{20}{70}$)	28	40	24	16	23	9	4	.....	1	3	.....

ing, and how his education, his advancement, his progress, and his success are hindered, limited, and arrested by defective ears." Superintendent Whitney, before quoted, established an "unclassified" department in the grammar grades for unadaptable or dull pupils, "hoping thus to more perfectly adjust matter and method to individual needs and capacities." He was astonished to find upon examination that every scholar enrolled in that department was a sufferer from defective vision, defective hearing, or from both together. Of 50,000 children examined by Dr. Francis Warner, London F. R. C. P., 1892–'94, the percentage of those having developmental defects in the cranium, eye, ear, and physique, who were mentally "dull," was 38.4 of the boys and 44.9 of the girls.

The eyes and ears of Negroes have been observed in such limited numbers that few positive conclusions of value can be arrived at. As before suggested, the differences in the age, in the admixture of blood, the physical conditions, and the personal environment of that race render a comparison of the few statistics obtained extremely liable to error.

As a race much nearer the primitive condition than our own, it would, like the Indian, have retained its powers of eyesight and hearing in a much higher degree if it could have maintained its purity. Unquestionably these faculties in the slave were superior to those in his descendants; but even now, in remote sections of the South, small communities can probably be found in which the powers of the eye and ear would closely approach those attained in primitive conditions. It is, however, generally conceded by all observers that these powers have in the race as a whole not only deteriorated but are still rapidly declining. It is thus far comparatively free from myopia, but the records of "The Medical Department of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands," from 1865 to 1872, show in that early period of the Negroes' independent life that among them, as compared with the whites, there was a much larger number of cases of inflammation of the eye of all kinds, a condition which is confirmed by very recent observers. Some of these affections are of such a positively infectious, dangerous, and contagious character that the school and the community at large should be protected from them by adequate supervision under the law—a requisition, however, which, as we have shown, should not be limited by race or condition.

The observations made in all countries have been particularly directed to the discovery of myopia, the most generally prevalent and persistent of all eye affections among Europeans, with the purpose of finding methods of prevention and relief. Sight is *par excellence* the intellectual sense, and a disease which so seriously threatens its existence has naturally excited among thinking men, and especially in the ranks of European educators, great interest and alarm.

It has been conclusively shown that myopia is a progressive disease, and that, in the language of Donders, "a myopic eye is absolutely a diseased eye;" that the period of its beginning is in the early years of the school life; that in the school-room it is possible to direct and control the conditions in which myopic pupils shall work, and to minister to their comfort and general welfare in a greater degree than in the average household. In the opinion of Dr. Cohn and others, the prevalence of myopia in the schools is due to heredity, defective hygiene, bad light, the protracted use of the eyes at too short distances, bad air, badly printed books, the use of the black slate in preference to paper, the method of writing, long hours, bad desks, necessitating vicious positions; bad health, too early and too persistent use of the eyes, and injudicious exercises in the kindergarten, etc.

A report made to the last National Council of Education, held at Buffalo, New York, informs us that "the deplorable hygienic state of the school-houses throughout the whole country is such as to demand serious attention and prompt relief. In one large Eastern city, a few years since, it was found that the average of the 1,200 school-rooms gave but about *one-fourth of the floor space* and *less than one-third of the air space* now considered necessary for each pupil in a school-room.

Sweden has found by thorough examination a very positive relation between long study hours and the ill health of its public-school children. Its commissioners found in the lower classes a requirement of seven hours daily work, and in the higher, eleven or twelve hours, not including the time occupied in private instruction or optional studies. Of the boys who worked the shorter time 50.8 per cent. had bad health, and of those who worked the greater number of hours 56.1 per cent. (Report of Commissioners of Education, 1888–'89, p. 220.)

The distribution of myopia is very general.

Dr. Cohn, of Breslau, found in the country schools of Germany a percentage of myopes of but	1.4	per cent.
In primary grades of cities	6.7	"
In intermediate grades of cities	10.3	"
In polytechnic schools	19.7	"
In Latin schools	26.2	"
In universities	59.0	"

Dr. Seggel, at Munich, found among professional men 57.5 per cent.; artisans, 8.5 per cent.; divers occupations, 3 per cent., and among peasants. 2 per cent. myopic.

Dr. Ayres found in the district schools of Cincinnati, Ohio, 10 per cent.; in the intermediate schools, 14 per cent., and in the high schools, 16 per cent. myopic.

In the Brooklyn Polytechnic there was found in the academic department a percentage of 10 per cent., and in the collegiate department 28 per cent.

Of 8,631 soldiers in the French army examined by Dr. J. Chauvel, 54.80 per cent. were found to have slightly myopic vision, and of 3,133 subjects, myopia was said to be hereditary in 33.7 per cent., and acquired in the remainder. (" Remarques statistiques et cliniques sur les examens des yeux par J. Chauvel, med. Prin. de 1're classe, Fr. army.")

Our own statistics are not exact enough to be of any comparative value; the indications are, however, in favor of a lower average percentage of myopes than is obtained in European countries, where Germany appears to lead all the others, closely followed by Italy, Sweden, France, and Hungary.

As already remarked, myopia has not yet acquired a strong hold among the blacks. Dr. Peter A. Callan, of New York, in 1,000 eyes of negro school children found in the lower grades but 1 per cent., and in the higher grades but 3 per cent. of myopes, and Dr. Belt, of Washington, in 1893, 1 per cent. in the lowest and 12 per cent. in the highest grades.

Dr. Kollock, of Charleston, South Carolina, who seems to have had exceptional opportunities and experience in studying the Sea Island Negro, the purest type of the African Negro now existing in the United States, says: " The writer has never seen but three cases of myopia in the black Negro, and though they were black in color, still other features indicated a mixed blood. In the pure-blooded Negro I have never seen a case of true myopia." (" The Eye of the Negro," C. W. Kollock, M. D., Annals of Oph. and Otol., 1893, vol. 2, No. 2.)

The entire neglect on the part of State officers, to whom are entrusted the supervision of our educational matters, to make any effort to conserve, cultivate, or to improve in the masses the faculties of sight and hearing is a national misfortune, the obvious and natural result of the individual ignorance and indifference now prevailing. Sufficient attention has not been given to the fact that the eye and the ear can be trained and educated with the other faculties. "All normal eyes," asserts Dr. Trifaud, of the French army, "are capable of acquiring greater delicacy of perception by exercise." Brundell Carter, in his recent report to the British Education Department, holds that the prevalence of subnormal vision is due to the fact that children so rarely are required to look at distant objects.

"The military service, because of the numerous exercises in the open air in which the vision is practiced at great distances, seems to develop the eye of the soldier to the keenness of that of the savage, the sailor, and the hunter." ("L. Education du sens de la vue chez de soldat," E. Trifaud, medicin major de 2d classe.)

It is a truism that the ideas of space, perspective, etc., are not natural, not inborn, but the result of education.

We may not expect to reach the primitive efficiency of our sight and hearing, but, like all the other organs of the body, the eye and the ear can acquire greater perfection by the judicious exercise of their functions, or become atrophied from neglect or lost by abuse. As to the means to be employed in correcting these evils, no expensive appliances, no large corps of highly paid medical officers are necessary.

In a very few lessons the teachers can be taught to make the eye and ear tests—of the eye by typographic scales, of the ear by the watch or voice. When defects are discovered one expert medical officer can attend to a large number of cases.

Without this examination no child of any class or condition should be permitted to enter upon or continue the school life, and then a few generations hence we shall approach more nearly to that acuity of hearing and of sight possessed by Barty Josselin, the hero of Du Maurier's last story, who "could hear a watch tick in the next room, distinguish sounds to which ordinary human ears are deaf, and see the satellites of Jupiter with the naked eye."

GEORGE R. STETSON.

RECEPTION TO Dr. EDWARD W. BLYDEN AT MONROVIA.

On Thursday, January 21, Dr. Blyden was invited from his rural retreat on the St. Paul's river to attend a banquet given at the capital of the Republic in his honor by prominent citizens at the Executive Mansion. The occasion was a unique one in the history of Liberia. Covers were laid for eighty-five gentlemen; eighty attended, including President W. D. Coleman and his Cabinet; the Acting Vice-President, Hon. J. J. Ross; members of the legislature, the Chief Justice and associate justices of the Supreme Court, the United States minister resident and his secretary of legation, and other persons of distinction. The residences of the consul general of the Netherlands and of the Secretary of War and of the Navy, in the neighborhood of the Mansion, displayed flags in honor of the occasion.

After the discussion of an elaborate and sumptuous *menu*, the company adjourned to the spacious and elegant drawing-room, where, without the aid of the sparkling and exhilarating cup, the following sentiments were proposed and responded to:

Associate Justice R. B. Richardson, who presided on the occasion, proposed the health of his excellency the President of the Republic. The Judge said:

"It is pleasing to record that President Coleman did not attain to his present position of dignity and honor by sudden flight, but by dint of hard, patient labor and toil. He began life as an obscure farmer boy, battling against the disadvantages, sufferings, and inconveniences which are common to indigence and obscurity; but

> "'He, while his companions slept,
> Was toiling upwards in the night.'

"Today he holds the highest place of honor and responsibility in the gift of his fellow-citizens. In his life is fulfilled the saying of the inspired writer: 'Seest thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.'

"Accepting President Coleman as a providential gift, let us give to him such sympathy and support as shall tend to make his administration the most brilliant in the history of the nation.

I give you, gentlemen, the health and success of President Coleman." (Applause.)

The President responded briefly, thanking the company for their warm expressions of sympathy with the sentiment proposed by the associate justice, and assuring his hearers of his determination to do all in his power for the promotion of the interests of the Republic, especially in the direction of the interior, striving to bring in the aborigines and to develop, with their coöperation, the vast resources of the country. (Loud applause.)

The chairman then proposed "The Legislature of Liberia." Hon. J. J. Ross, acting president of the Senate and the present nominee for the Vice-Presidency, responded. The honorable gentleman in a speech of great emphasis and power riveted the enthusiastic attention of all as he described the progress recently made in the Republic, as illustrated in the patriotic harmony which marked the proceedings of both houses of the legislature during its session which was closed yesterday—so different from the wranglings of former days. Every man now seemed to place the interest of the country above personal or party considerations, and he pledged the support of the whole people, especially that section which he represented, to the ardent and unwavering support of the President in the arduous labors before him. He closed a brilliant speech by proposing "The Judiciary of the Republic."

Hon. Z. B. Roberts, the Chief Justice, responded in his usual attractive and impressive style, easily carrying his audience with him as he expatiated upon the importance of the judiciary and of the progress made in recent years in forensic ability at the bar and of legal knowledge and acumen on the bench throughout the Republic.

Judge Roberts sat down amid great applause.

The chairman then arose and said:

"Gentlemen, I now beg to propose the health of the guest of the occasion, the Hon. Edward Wilmot Blyden, LL. D., who has spent and is spending his life and rare gifts in the interest of his race and country. Language fails me to point out to you the exalted character of this most distinguished and learned gentleman. His fame is spread not only throughout Liberia, but the whole civilized world. Europe, Asia, and America know him, and Africa sings his praises. His labors, wherever he may be

located, are for the welfare of the race everywhere. The Hon. John H. Smythe, late minister resident of the United States to Liberia, said on the occasion of the reception given to the Doctor by Secretary Gibson on his return from his first residence near the Court of St. James as our minister plenipotentiary in 1879, 'Liberia is too small to monopolize Dr. Blyden. He is the property of every country whose inhabitants wear the shadowed livery of the burnished sun.'

"Gentlemen, I give you the health of Dr. Blyden, the teacher and champion of the Negro race." (Loud applause.)

Dr. Blyden, on rising to respond, was greeted with loud and continued applause. He spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and fellow-citizens, I feel under great obligations to you for the kind and generous manner in which you have responded to the sentiment just proposed by the associate justice. I am grateful for your recognition of the fact that wherever I am my labors are not apart from the interests of the race, and therefore are not distinct from the interests of Liberia, which is so important a part of the Negro race. It has been my lot to live in both hemispheres. I have seen the African on the four continents, but nowhere have I seen him existing under conditions so favorable to untrammeled development as in Liberia. Nowhere else has he the opportunities which he enjoys here. I am a Liberian. Here have I spent the best days of my life, and to this Republic I have given my best energies. Nothing, then, that concerns Liberia can be foreign from my sympathies.

"I am very glad to enjoy once more the privilege of meeting you under these pleasant circumstances.

"Liberia, it has often been said, is a child of Divine Providence. Well, so I believe it is. It was planted by the God of nations for a beneficent purpose. It was welcomed into the family of nations as an independent Negro State fifty years ago, at a time when the condition of the Negro was everywhere dark, depressed, and discouraging; when the slave trade, in spite of protracted and strenuous efforts to suppress it on the part of some of the European powers, was rampant on this coast; when slaves were being poured from the Niger, the Bight of Benin, from the Congo, and even from parts of our own coast into Cuba, Brazil, and some sections of the Southern States; when every effort was being made in America to tighten the bonds of the slave, to perpetuate his

servitude, and deepen his degradation, and the theory was almost universally held that a mysterious and irrevocable curse hung over the destinies of the Negro.

"It was under such circumstances that Liberians felt it their duty to assume a position of independence, owing to the inconveniences which arose from their anomalous position as being neither colony nor nation.

"They went before the world with their appeal, and Great Britain was the first to respond to their application to be received among the nations of the earth. The other powers followed, and all have made treaties with the young Republic, placing her on the footing of the most favored nation.

"They knew that the Liberian Republic was an experiment; but they were willing to give the youthful State all the encouragement they could on her entrance upon the new departure. We became a full-fledged nation, and had to legislate as a nation not only for ourselves, but in reference to other nations. Of course, we could not at first appreciate the grave responsibilities which we had assumed: We were without education, without experience in political matters, without resources, without prestige, either as a community or as a race.

"With our sad experience in the house of bondage, and all we could hear and read of the treatment accorded to descendants of Africa by the white race, the first thing that naturally claimed our attention was the necessity for self-defense and self-preservation. We rightly assumed that the safety of the people was the supreme law, and to secure this we erected walls to fence ourselves off from the rest of mankind—laws which we supposed were adapted to our peculiar condition, but which were a violation of the principles of political economy and of natural growth. We were confronted with a serious dilemma. In shutting out what we considered the evils of unrestricted intercourse with foreigners we also shut out the advantages of such intercourse. We did not understand the solidarity of humanity.

"We had, in consequence of the legislative precautions we took, to work at an enormous disadvantage in our feeble way, and with our crude materials to build up a nation. Through fear of the kite we admitted the hawk, and the havoc created by our exclusive laws has been far greater than freedom of intercourse would have been able to cause.

"For sixteen years we were satisfied with our laws, which forbade foreigners to become citizens; and because those laws were in self-defense, I believe Providence sympathized with us, and we experienced a degree of prosperity under them.

"But in 1863–'64 we went further and fared a great deal worse. We made laws shutting out foreigners from our coast trade and debarring the aborigines from rights and privileges which from time immemorial they had enjoyed.

"This has been the great mistake in the history of our legislation. No such laws existed during the administrations of Presidents Roberts and Benson, and it is admitted on all hands that the Republic has never been in so flourishing a condition commercially and politically as under their administrations.

"The bill closing the coast, which became known as the port of entry law, was passed during the last session of President Benson's incumbency. He refused to sign it as being unjust to the aborigines and shortsighted as a national policy.

"Mr. Warner, his successor, and whose secretary of state I was, yielding to pressure brought to bear upon him by interested political partisans, signed the bill as an experiment. From this moment our commercial prosperity began to decline.

"Whereas before the passage of the act we had a large fleet of Liberian craft, every settlement having its sloops and schooners and two settlements having vessels large enough to trade with Europe and America, after the law came into effect our Liberian craft disappeared one after another, until now the Liberian flag on a trading vessel is scarcely ever seen along the coast. We violated the golden rule and we are reaping the penalty. We did unto others what we should not like others to do unto us, and we behold the result.

"We shall never be again financially independent of the foreigner until we unshackle the wings of commerce and cease to violate the laws of political economy, which are the laws of God.

"Mr. Benson in his statesmanlike sagacity foresaw the untoward consequences of such a port of entry law as was enacted, and foresaw the evils we are now suffering, and he refused to sign the bill.

"I have no odium to cast upon the memory of those who favored the bill. They no doubt acted conscientiously, having

in view the highest welfare of the nation as they conceived that welfare.

"There are false ideas and there are true ideas. A true idea is an idea which represents things as they are; a false idea is an idea which represents things as they are not. While a man firmly holds to a false idea, thinking it true, he will naturally follow it out, and he is to be respected for his faithfulness to his own conscience, even though his conviction be wrong. Not the truth of our opinions, but the conscientious faithfulness with which we arrive at and keep and apply those opinions is the test of virtue; but whatever our opinions, if we reduce them to practice they must bear fruit after their kind; grapes will produce grapes, and thorns thorns. He that soweth the wind will reap the whirlwind. Our faithfulness to our own consciousness will never secure us from the bad consequences of a bad thought when we act it out, or from the futile results of erroneous action.

"We are told that the early English hunters of Canada deceived the Indians and made them believe that gunpowder was raised in the fields like wheat and corn. The poor Indians, relying upon the teachings of their foreign guides, sowed gunpowder in their little gardens for seed. They were sincere, but their sincerity did not make the gunpowder sprout and grow; they waited for a long time, but the gunpowder harvest never came.

"We have a similar case in our own history. Mr. Allen B. Hooper, a farmer by training and instinct, came to Liberia from the State of North Carolina about fifty years ago, when very little interest was taken in agriculture by the settlers. He drew his land on the St. Paul river, in the present settlement of Clay Ashland. As he had made farming a success in America by raising apples and peaches, he thought he could do the same here; so he went to work and cleared his land in the approved style, and planted the seed he had brought with him. He watched the place daily. The seed sprouted and grew. He tended the young plants carefully, as he was wont to do in America. He watered them regularly.

"They grew up into plants goodly to look at, but when he looked for fruit, behold, in spite of his unremitting assiduity, there was no fruit. They bore nothing but leaves. They needed the invigorating influence of frost, and there is no frost in Liberia.

"Mr. Hooper's idea of agriculture was at that time false for the country. He was sincere, but his sincerity could produce neither peaches nor apples, though he had the trees.

"But he soon learned the truth, and put coffee seed into the earth. Then he had an abundant harvest in answer to his toil, and he became the pioneer coffee-planter on a large scale, and proved that in Liberia coffee culture could be made something more than an amusement for people engaged in other occupations. Neither prayers nor laws will avail us if they are offered or enacted to secure things not in harmony with the law of God, which is the law of nature. If we do not legislate according to the facts and circumstances of a country, we legislate in vain and more than in vain—to our own detriment. We must study ourselves, the facts and circumstances that confront us, and then make laws in harmony with them. Let us cease to sow gunpowder and to plant apples and peaches and learn to sow and plant in accordance with the laws of nature for us.

"I believe we are getting to understand ourselves. We are beginning to awake from the slumber—the stupor of slavery—and understand who we are. We are beginning to take our place in the world as Africans. We are getting the courage to be ourselves, and Liberia is today in a far more hopeful state than ever before. When we come fully to ourselves we shall not, like the prodigal, have to arise and go home; we shall realize that we *are* at home. We shall make laws without fear or suspicion, without fear of the white man or suspicion of our aboriginal brethren. But so long as we looked upon ourselves as quasi-Africans, with our roots in a foreign land; so long as we peeped and dodged, afraid to trust those within our domain and those without, uncertain of our position on the continent and distrustful of our rights and privileges as an independent nation, so long, therefore, we failed to enjoy the rich material advantages of this beautiful country.

"But we *are* an independent nation, and a distinguished foreign official, who visited these shores a few weeks ago, expressed the earnest hope that our independence would be maintained unimpaired.

"But sovereignty has its duties and responsibilities as well as its rights and privileges. If we cannot fulfill those duties, no other nation is bound to respect our sovereignty, and we cannot

fulfill those duties without their coöperation, and we cannot have their coöperation when we make unfair discriminations against their subjects or citizens.

"Our exclusive laws have narrowed our sympathies, restricted our visions, impoverished the State, and lowered our prestige. In the days of President Benson an eminent American statesman declared that Liberia was no longer an experiment, but an established fact; but the retrograde step we made when he retired, and which it has thus far been impossible to retrace, has placed us again in the experimental stage. Lord Roseberry said to me in 1892: 'I feel great interest in the Liberian *experiment.*'

"It will be found that, so far as our work on this continent is concerned, force is the most futile thing in the world, as we have learned during the last forty years in our troubles with the natives. Forceful proceeding in the name of civilization—*Christian* civilization—leads to anarchy and is really anti-Christ, and ought to be anti-African.

"It is always and only *all things* that work together, and all men as well that work together for good—the good of humanity. In the course of my experience I have learned to think that when things or affairs will not work right it is because something or somebody has been left out of our calculations.

"But, as I have said, I believe matters are improving. I have been struck by noticing on my return home after these three or four years' absence the numerous indications of material prosperity, both in town and in the rural districts. I am glad to see that the people are beginning to care more for agriculture and less for politics, and are disposed to leave men long enough in office to learn the duties of government and perform them efficiently.

"The country seems to have almost lost its interest in politics. I am told that the convention held in this city a few days ago was beyond any precedent—quiet and harmonious.

"There are several causes for this growing apathy in the public mind as to politics: the sad experience of the past, the disappointing results of election excitements, the failure to realize brilliant promises and expectations, and the continued and increasing depression in our financial affairs. The masses of the people, too, are improving in their material condition. The

farmers are coming to the front. There is a desire for progress and comfort, and a deep conviction that comfort and prosperity do not, at least in Liberia, come from politics. I observe that several new and valuable buildings have been erected in Monrovia, and I learn that others are to be erected, and that most of these are due to the enterprise of farmers. When the masses begin to prosper and to become contented, there will be no field for the exploits of the professional politician or demagogue, and then our rulers will be able to see their duty clearly. I am gratified also to find an increased interest in the interior. It is in that direction that the true life of the country lies. I learn that it is the policy of the present administration to devote more regular and systematic attention to the development of the interior; and this new policy is not surprising, for the present Chief Magistrate is the first of the Liberian Presidents taken from the rural districts. May a beneficent and all-wise Providence favor his plans!

"It is reported that the French are operating in our hinterland, and some anxiety seems to prevail among our people, but our boundary in that direction has been fixed, and we need fear no encroachment. We must banish from our minds all apprehensions of sinister intentions or hostile influence on the part of that chivalrous nation. They are endeavoring, in the interest of peace and in the interest of trade, to reduce to order refractory tribes. We must not deny—it would be folly and ingratitude to deny to that friendly nation in their work in the Soudan, in the French Soudan, which, of course, is not Liberia's Soudan—an honest desire to improve the condition of the countries within their sphere of influence. We must recognize the spirit of humanity in their dealings with the people.

"France has no ill-will against Liberia. We are not important enough to excite her jealousy. It is the proceedings of England in West Africa—on the Niger and on the Nile—that French politicians watch with a degree of suspicion and perhaps irritation. For Liberia, I believe, they have nothing but good will, and if we only understand ourselves we can work successfully with them or with anybody else for the upbuilding of Liberia and the regeneration of the Negro race.

"Nothing can be more futile than to spend our time in deploring the activity of the English and the French in our neigh-

borhood, when we might turn it to account by extending our enterprises to the countries which they are pacifying, and by imitating their intelligence and sagacity in adopting such measures in dealings with the aborigines as are suggested by our peculiar relations to them, and as shall secure the complete loyalty and coöperation of those in our territory.

"We cannot stop the enterprises of trade and the imperious demand of civilization for its extension. With treaties or without treaties, these enterprises are bound to go on. The liberal enactments of the legislative session just closed, affecting our commercial interests—the most liberal since 1863—and upon which I must congratulate the Republic, show that we are beginning to recognize the true principles of growth, that we are beginning to understand ourselves, our duties, and our privileges in this country. A vast continent lies before us, if we are wise, and the future is ours." (Loud applause.)

"Our Foreign Relations," proposed by Senator Frazer, of Sinoe county, who humorously referred to the interesting fact that in the entire absence of any strong drink the toasts were drunk in cold water and lemonade, a symbol of the quiet and pacific character of our foreign relations.

Hon. G. W. Gibson, Secretary of State, in reply congratulated the nation on the happy condition of our foreign relations, and urged upon the leading citizens of the various counties and districts the duty of promptly suppressing at all times any indications of those unfortunate tendencies which have been manifested of late by the irresponsible classes in some of our communities to annoy the subjects of foreign governments, and assured the company of the good-will and sympathy which he knows to exist towards Liberia on the part of all foreign powers.

In response to the toast on "Education," Chief Justice Roberts read a learned paper on the subject, and was followed in a humorous speech by Prof. J. C. Stevens, of the Ricks Institute.

"Health of Our Host," proposed by Dr. Blyden and responded to in an eloquent and earnest speech by Rev. June Moore, of Arthington, brought the interesting proceedings to a close.—*The Sierra Leone Weekly News.*

LETTERS FROM LIBERIA.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *November 17, 1896.*

Mr. J. ORMOND WILSON, *Secretary A. C. Society, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: * * * It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of Joseph James Cheeseman, President of the Republic of Liberia, which sorrowful event occurred on the night of November 12, 1896.

He had suffered a week or so previous to his death from two attacks of epilepsy, and though death was then feared, he seemed to rally, and the country had hopes of his recovery.

The President was 53 years of age. His loss is much regretted. He was eminently practical and very successful. During his administration he had succeeded in bringing about a state of peace with our Coast natives such as had not existed before. There is now no native trouble throughout the Republic.

The great question here is, Where shall we find another?

During his administration the country has purchased two small gunboats, mail-boats, settled the Palmas war troubles, the Sinoe war troubles, and coined $25,000 worth of silver and copper coins in 10, 25, and 50 cent silver pieces, and one and two cent copper coins. Had it not been for the war difficulties, there is not any doubt that the finances would now be in a healthy condition.

He was buried on Saturday, the 14th day of November, with all the honors the country could bestow upon him. His body was attended to the grave by the First and Fifth regiments, under the command of General Jones, as well as by the Masonic fraternity and all the civic institutions of which either he or Mrs. Cheeseman was a member. One hundred guns were fired minutely.

Hon. William David Coleman, Vice-President, was duly sworn in on Friday, the 13th instant, at 12 o'clock m., by Rev. R. B. Richardson, associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Judge Brumskine, of the court of quarter sessions in Bassa, died, and he was buried on the day mentioned above.

On the 28th ultimo Liberia paid an indemnity of $1,050 to the British government for injuries sustained by British Negro subjects of Sierra Leone residing in Bassa.

The school at Sinoe has completed a quarter commencing May 1, and I have the report of the school.

We now have a French consul and secretary residing here.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant, J. C. STEVENS,
Agent A. C. Society.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *November 14, 1896.*

J. ORMOND WILSON, Esq., *Secretary A. C. Society, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: The inclosed papers will announce to you the death of our late and highly esteemed President and also the accession of Vice-President William David Coleman to the Executive chair.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant, G. W. GIBSON,
Secretary of State.

ENCLOSED PAPERS.

Official Bulletin No. 1.

In consequence of the demise of the late Hon. Joseph James Cheeseman, late President of this Republic, which sad event took place at the Executive Mansion last evening, the 12th inst., at 10.30 o'clock, the Hon. William David Coleman, Vice-President, will take the oath of office today and enter upon the duties of the Chief Executive immediately, according to law.

God save the Republic!

G. W. GIBSON,
Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MONROVIA, *Nov. 13th, 1896.*

Official Bulletin No. 3.

The late Hon. Joseph James Cheeseman, late President of the Republic of Liberia, having entered into rest last evening at half past ten o'clock, at the Executive Mansion, after an illness of several weeks, the members of the Executive Cabinet convened

immediately and took steps to notify the Honorable Vice-President, William David Coleman, and to arrange for his induction into the office of the Presidency according to law.

Be it known that the Hon. William David Coleman did, this day, at the Executive Mansion, at 12 m., in the presence of the Cabinet and other officials of the Government, take the oath of office, and that he has now entered upon the duties of the Chief Executive of this nation.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of State this the 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six and of the Republic the fiftieth.

[L. S.] G. W. GIBSON,
Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MONROVIA, *November 13th, 1896.*

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *December 29, 1896.*

Mr. J. ORMOND WILSON, *Secretary A. C. Society, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: * * * I inclose an order for text books and other school supplies, as the stock on hand is running low. I am selling them at exactly the figures you name. * * *

I have written the deed for the land for the public school at Royesville, and am expecting by March to ask the performance of your promise to help pay the teacher. Education with our people is an uphill work.

Dr. E. W. Blyden is in this country now, up the St. Paul river. I have seen him. While in town he stopped at my boarding place. It is thought he will spend some time in Liberia.

We paid a small indemnity to a German resident at Sinoe during this month on account of injuries received at the hands of some lawless persons living there. I think it was $200. It might have been more, but the German had on a former occasion been guilty of smuggling, so a compromise was effected.

An English man-of-war called during this month to ask why our gunboat, the "Rocktown," fired upon English steamers. As we could show clearly that the merchantmen fired upon were anchored, or entering and landing cargo at places not ports of entry—in other words, smuggling—we were justified, though we

promised to fire blank shots hereafter, providing blank shots will effect the purpose.

The legislature is in session. The President's message bristles with practical suggestions. Mr. W. D. Coleman, the President, is a self-made man, having come from extreme poverty to wealth. He is now one of the wealthiest farmers on the St. Paul river. He is a lawyer also. His life has been an eminently practical one, and although he is not considered to be so very scholarly, yet much real and needed work is expected to be done during his term. He will very likely be elected to the Presidency at the next May's election. * * *

Liberia needs honest, horny-handed sons of toil—farmers, or, if mechanics, they must first be farmers. * * *

The last two immigrations brought some pretty good teachers, and they, fortunately, can farm. One young woman, a teacher, married Mr. Coleman, now our President, soon after arriving.

The people here want immigrants that will remain here and go to work. Such are invariably helped by the government and by private charity.

Your obedient servant, J. C. STEVENS,
Agent A. C. S.

CAPE PALMAS, *December 3, 1896.*

Mr. J. ORMOND WILSON, *Secretary A. C. S.*

DEAR SIR: * * * The Cavalla war is over. President Cheeseman came down with a military force and settled the difficulty, so that peace prevails. The Cavalla river is now open to uninterrupted navigation, and merchants, white and black, can carry on their trade.

People in general are turning their attention more and more to coffee farming. I have a farm of 30 acres at Philadelphia, which I expect to plant with coffee during the present year.

An immigrant recently came out here from Virginia by way of England and already has his farm of 15 acres at the same settlement.

We have the following-named schools at Cape Palmas: The Cuttington and a parish school are supported by the Protestant Episcopal mission, and another parish school is supported by the Methodist Episcopal mission; the Hall Free School is sup-

ported by a fund held in trust by the American Colonization Society, and the Liberian Government maintains four public schools. Mr. T. T. Brewer is the Commissioner of Education for this county. He was appointed by the Liberian Government and receives a salary of $300 a year for his services.

In these schools reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and history are taught, and children of the natives as well as Liberians attend them. The teachers generally are quite competent for their work.

Yours truly, JAMES GADSDEN.

CONDITION OF THE BANTU.

This was the condition of the Bantu at the beginning of the sixteenth century, when Europeans became acquainted with a section of the race, and it is the condition of the great majority of them today, except where their customs have been modified by the authority of white people. The opinion of those who have most to do with them now—four hundred years after their first contact with Caucasian civilization—is that an occasional individual is capable of rising to a high standard, but that the great mass show little aptitude for European culture. In mission schools children of early age are found to keep pace with those of white parents. In some respects, indeed, they are the higher of the two. Deprived of all extraneous aid, a Bantu child is able to devise means for supporting life at a much earlier age than a European child; but while the European youth is still developing his powers, the Bantu youth in most instances is found unable to make further progress. His intellect has become sluggish, and he exhibits a decided repugnance, if not an incapacity, to learn anything more. The growth of his mind, which at first promised so much, has ceased just at that stage when the mind of the European begins to display the greatest vigor.

Numerous individuals, however, have emerged from the mass, and have shown abilities of no mean order. A score of ministers of religion might now be named equal to the average European in the kind of intellect required in their calling. Masters of primary schools, clerks, and interpreters, fairly well qualified

for their duties, are by no means rare. One individual of this race has translated Bunyan's " Pilgrim's Progress " into the dialect of the Xosa tribe, and the translation is as faithful and expressive as any that have been made in the languages of Europe. Plaintive tunes, such as the converts at mission stations love to sing, have been composed by another for a considerable number of hymns and songs in the same dialect. Still another edits a newspaper, and shows that he has an intelligent grasp of political questions.

As mechanics they do not succeed so well, though an individual here and there shows an aptitude for working with iron. No one among them has invented or improved a useful implement since white men first became acquainted with them; and the strong desire of much the greater number is to live as closely like their ancestors as the altered circumstances of the country will permit, to make use of a few of the white man's simplest conveniences and of his protection against their enemies, but to avoid his habits and shut out his ideas. Compared with Europeans, their adults are commonly children in imagination and in simplicity of belief, though not unfrequently one may have the mental faculties of a full-grown man.— *George McCall Theal, LL. D., in " The Portuguese in South Africa."*

1015 Spain Street, New Orleans, Louisiana,
September 30, 1896.

J. O. Wilson, *Secretary A. C. S., Washington, D. C.*

Dear Sir: Your very kind letter of the 19th ult., together with other reading matter concerning the A. C. Society, the founder of the Liberian Republic, was duly received and read with much satisfaction and appreciation.

The Bulletins you sent me, and especially the copy of the " Half Century Memorial," are sources of inspiration and encouragement to me in my humble effort to find a solution to this question of race which confronts all well thinking citizens of the United States.

I thank you for what you sent, and would ask you to keep my name upon your list and forward me any new literature upon the subject of Liberia or Africa which you may be in possession of.

I am looking forward to the day when it shall be my divine lot to set out for Liberia to make my home there and to induce others to go with me.

I sometimes think of trying to get a plan on foot to organize a colonization society in this State.

I am not moved to this consideration by prejudice or any hatred for the white people among whom I am living.

I am in favor of preserving my own race on the earth. I do not believe, as many people do today, that the United States is intended simply to establish once and forever the brotherhood of all men. I believe that God intended these United States to be to the Negro race what Egypt was to the uncultured and semi-civilized Jew—a training school.

Any thought that you have or help in the way of information will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly, C. W. Johnson.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATIVE TRIBES OF LIBERIA.*

J. BÜTTIKOFER,

Conservator Reichs' Museum, Leyden.

[Excerpts from a paper in the Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie, Bd. 1.]

The population of Liberia is sharply divided into two very unequal parts—the natives, who form the great majority, and the Americo-Liberians.

The former, while belonging politically to the Republic of Liberia, are actually and entirely independent of it, each native tribe having its own territory and its own language and government. The most important of these races are the Veys, under the crafty King Freeman; the Deys, formerly a numerous race, but now depleted by wars; the Golahs, a powerful race, once under the warlike King Fan Queh-queh, who inhabit the primitive forests of the St. Paul river and whose territory is bounded

* Einiges über Die Eingebornen von Liberia, von J. Büttikofer, conservator, etc.

by the Mandingo uplands; the Mambas, who occupy territory in the interior east of Monrovia; the Queahs, located on the Du Queah river, also to the eastward of Monrovia; the powerful Pessys, in the interior to the west, bordering on the Golah territory, and the Bassas, whose territory is bounded on the southwest by the Atlantic ocean, on the northwest by the Farmington river, on the southeast by the Sinoe, and in the interior by the territory of the Gibi and other tribes.

To the east of the Sinoe river is the land of the Krus, the home of the well known and highly appreciated Krooboys, the sailors and pilots of the coast, whose possessions reach to Cape Palmas, touching the territory of the Grebos.

The Krus are philologically divided by various dialects, and as a race are the savoyards of the West Coast, who, like their European type, emigrate only to obtain a competence to enable them to return and live at ease in the fatherland.

Upon the coast, where their services are required, they segregate in villages, popularly known as "Kroo towns," where they live by themselves, shut in from all contact or intercouse with the neighboring races.

In the primeval upland region somewhat distant from the coast are found the Barlines, the Busies, and the Mandingos, the greater part of these tribes being converts to Islam. Most of these tribes are under their own kings, whose chiefs have their own territorial departments or limits, and who, insignificant as they may be, often call themselves kings in imitation of their superiors, a practice which can be easily forgiven, as in times of peace each subordinate has as much power as the king himself.

The kingship seems to be hereditary, but very often the most powerful and influential vassal is chosen in place of the one possessing the hereditary right of succession. In time of profound peace the king has no power over his vassals, but like them is simply a patriarch over his own personal following and territory, but retaining his authority as the supreme court of appeal in the judicial affairs of his suzerainty.

If involved in or beginning a war the king's authority is recognized as absolute over his tribe, and includes the right of taxation in its support, the neighboring neutral tribes being sometimes hired to fight his battles. The native "towns," in Liberian parlance, are those ruled by chiefs, while the "half towns" are

simply annexes or suburbs of the larger communities. These "towns" or villages are very irregularly laid out, having at least one large open space or "square," but the huts are frequently located in such disorder and so close together that one can with difficulty pass between them, the roofs sometimes lapping over each other. Each hut is arranged for one family, and each wife has a separate hut. In form they are round or oval, with conical roofs. On the coast and in the isolated forest regions they are built with stakes driven into the ground, bound together with wicker-work, and plastered with clay, and on the hinterland of sun-dried bricks or blocks of clay.

The Krus build with strong and neatly woven rushes, frequently plastered with clay, and in other parts, especially among the Golahs and Busies, the huts are raised upon a platform of compressed clay, two or three feet above the ground, and extending six inches outside the walls. The entrance is low and narrow, with a high threshold, and the doors are of wood or palm matting; when made of the former they are very clumsily hewn from the trunk of a tree. There are no window openings, the ventilation being through the interstices of the roof made of the branches of the fan palm or of leaves or thickly woven grass.

In the interior, directly beneath the roof and supported by a rude floor, is the store-room for the annual harvest and other supplies, which is reached by a notched stick serving as a primitive ladder. The lower and ground floor is sometimes divided into two compartments, a kitchen and living room. The life of the family is, however, mostly out of doors. The fireplace, in the center of the room, is formed by the trunk of a tree burned in two parts in the middle, the burned and smouldering ends being placed opposite to each other, and, when necessary, reinforced by lighter fuel. The free ends of the trunk serve the occupants as seats.

In the huts of the chiefs the furniture consists of short blocks of wood and low stools for sitting, and wooden pillows and home-made hammocks for the midday siesta. In the corners and about the apartment a brass water kettle and cast-iron cooking pot, both of European manufacture, are usually found, together with native wooden bowls for serving food, and the cooking utensils. The brass kettles figure very largely in the family arrangements, especially in marriage dowers and settlements.

The staple diet on the coast and rivers is fish soup, which is eaten with the fingers and very exceptionally with a spoon.

In the sleeping or living room the bed is formed of logs of wood laid closely together and covered with a mat or a coating of clay, the pillows of split logs, and the coverings of coarse "country" cloth.

In this room are kept the wardrobe and household treasures, usually in old gin cases. The chief's houses or huts only differ from those of the tribe in size, and all are generally models of cleanliness. In the large towns or villages will be found the so-called "palaver" house, usually a long rectangular building, with three walls, the fourth side being open to the public "square" or "plaza." This is used for the holding of courts, the reception of strangers, and for all public functions.

The villages are generally fortified with palisades in triple or quadruple lines, broken by cross walls, and protected by a primitive chevaux-de-frise of thorn bushes and pointed stakes.

In the hinterland the high, defensive walls are built of blocks of sun-dried clay, and are furnished with three or four entrances, which are protected by heavy doors and sharply pointed pales. In times of war the warriors and women and children gather in the more strongly fortified towns.

The arms used by the natives are heavy European flint-lock guns, and in place of leaden balls or cartridges for ammunition pieces of broken iron pots are used, and failing these, pieces of crude iron ore. Besides his gun he carries his hunting bag, made of the skin of some animal, on either edge of which is hung a gourd filled with powder and a box for shot, and on the inner side, next to the body, a short two-edged sword, in a wooden scabbard, the whole carried under his left arm. His provisions consist of some leaf tobacco, an earthen pipe, and a horn of powdered tobacco mixed with resin.

The coast tribes are not in the habit of skinning the animals prepared for food, and, after cooking, eat the skin with the flesh; but in the hinterland, among the Mandingos, Barlines, and Pessys, who use the skins in leather-work, the opposite custom prevails.

Elephants are not shot, but killed with native spears, chiefly through loss of blood. Some of the native fishing implements do not vary from their European type.

Among the numerous natural products is the kola nut, which is much used, especially by the inland tribes. It is not, however, as plentiful in Liberia as in the hinterland of some other parts of the coast.

The native enjoyment of tobacco is excessive. The smoking of a cigar is a remarkable event, and as a function is participated in by all the youthful villagers. When I smoked a cigar the boys and girls and women would surround me and taking the smoke from me in their open mouths would revel in it for a moment and then blow it into their neighbors' mouths, and continue the sport until the smoke was exhausted. The chewing or snuffing of tobacco is not common, nor is it generally liked; but instead, a small portion of powdered tobacco, mixed with resin, is put under the tongue and retained there. On long journeys the supply is carried in a goat's horn and is never forgotten.

The clothing is very simple, the men wearing nothing but a common imported cotton handkerchief as a loin cloth, and the women a similar handkerchief and sometimes a larger piece of cloth, the former hung about the loins and the latter under the arms. The Mandingo gown is an armless chemise bound about the neck with a strip of red woolen stuff and furnished with a breast pocket for pipes, tobacco, etc. Among adults an entire absence of clothing is seldom remarked, but the native rowers and carriers or porters take off every vestige of clothing when at work, the latter using their loin cloths as cushions for their heavy back loads, while children of both genders go entirely naked until eight or ten years of age. Shoes are never worn, but wooden sandals are sometimes used by the Mandingo dervishes, while those made of leather are only used for wounded feet.

The native head-dresses are very numerous and characteristic, but as they are generally too heavy and cumbersome for comfort they are not liked. Rain hats are sometimes met with, made of leaves and as large as an umbrella. These as well as other coverings for the head are, however, looked upon rather as luxuries than necessities. A kind of cap made of grass or similar material is quite frequently seen, but affords no protection from rain or sun. The latter is not important, as the blazing noonday sun has no terrors for them.

Among the decorative ornaments the most original are strings of the eye-teeth of the rhinoceros, tiger cat, and leopard. The latter are especially prized, and because of their rarity are seldom acquired by the common people.

The young children, especially girls, wear thick girdles of beads about the loins, and adults wear them under the loin cloths. A great variety of arm and leg rings are worn by all ages and by both sexes; the favorites are broad heavy arm rings of ivory made of the hollow ends of elephants tusks, and are never parted with except from necessity or at a very high price.

Among the Mandingos and other inland tribes the rings are plainly made of leather and worn upon the upper arm, and to which as gri-gris certain magic charms are generally ascribed.

For ear-rings there is little demand, but finger-rings of copper wire and silver, etc., are more commonly used. Strings of the seeds of the *coyx-lacryma* are also used for ornament by the Americo-Liberian girls.

Toe-rings of copper or silver are sometimes met with, and if unable to obtain anything of more value for foot-rings, common twine strings are used. The Vey silversmiths have a good reputation, and among them charms and ornaments made of European silver coins are commonly worn. On the head the Vey women wear large four-cornered silver clasps, and around the neck from one to six silver chains, on which is suspended a heavy casket or locket. I have estimated the value of these various ornaments worn by single individuals as high as $40.

The hair by both sexes is generally worn long, and by the women is dressed in braids. The native beauties are just as clever in the use of false hair as Europeans, which they build up in lofty coiffures, the natural breeding places of numerous parasites, which are kept in order with short ornamental sticks carried for the purpose. The heads, especially of the men and boys among the Golahs, put one in mind of a garden in the style of Louis XIV.

The skin is frequently painted with white and yellow clay, upon which decoration the females bestow the most care, especially upon the face and upper parts of the body. The tattooing of tribal and other marks is done in dark blue and green.

The Krus tattoo tribal marks on the forehead and back of the neck, the Golahs on the temple, the Queahs on the back of the

neck and collar-bone, the puberty marks being generally put on the loins and back.

One is often astonished at the beautiful leather and pearl work of these native tribes, especially of the Mandingos. Skins are treated with lime made of sea and fresh water muscle shells, sun or fire dried, and colored with vegetable dyes, to be made into articles of use or ornament or fanciful accoutrements of war. Iron and flintstone weapons are also manufactured. In textile industries the natives have reached a high degree of skill, in which the Mandingos particularly excel. These products show the Moorish influence which, from the Mandingos, has been reflected upon the neighboring tribes. The Veys, Golahs, and Barlines of the west, with the Mandingos and other interior tribes, manufacture the country cloth from the raw cotton, the spinning, of course, being primitively done. The question as to the nativity of this cotton-plant, which is nearly related to that of America, I will, however, leave to others. The cloth is woven in strips, which are sewn together so neatly that it is difficult to find the seams. The sewer sits on the ground holding the two strips together between the big and second toe of the left foot and in the left hand and sewing with his right. The Bassas and Krus weave all kinds of beautiful fabrics, especially from the fibers of the palm and anana, and the natives generally are very clever in all sorts of plaiting, for which the materials are surprisingly abundant. Mats braided of palm-leaf stalks are used for the walls of huts and the fibre is worked into fish traps, baskets, and a great variety of articles.

The art of wood carving is in a low stage of development and beautiful specimens are rarely seen, but wooden bowls, mortars, musical instruments, images, masks, and other articles are common.

The making of pottery is entirely in the hands of the women, bowls and vessels in all possible sizes, of a uniform pattern, and decorated with geometrical figures being everywhere found, but because of the importation of European vessels of iron and brass it is rapidly declining.

Of the precious metals only gold is known, and the tools of the native workers in both gold and silver are extremely simple. Iron is frequently found in the interior and is smelted in crude clay ovens. The " village smithy " is to be seen in every large Negro

town, the metal being worked with charcoal. Hoes, hatchets, swords, daggers, bush knives, spears, arrow-heads, arm and foot rings, and ornaments of European brass and copper are among the surprising products of native skill. On the coast, unfortunately, this industry is also declining under the baleful influence of Europeans.

As to the general social conditions, only the well-to-do have more than one wife. The chiefs, however, sometimes have from fifty to one hundred, beside hundreds of slaves. The head wife is the only one who has an authority at all approximate to that of her lord. She has entire charge of the domestic affairs of the family, and sometimes enters into the political affairs of the tribe so actively as to lead a regiment in battle. I have seldom missed the opportunity of being presented to the head wife, who with the chief shared the customary presents. The subordinate wives support themselves, besides having a good deal of extra work put upon them; but they bear their burdens with great cheerfulness and spend half the nights in dancing to music.

A sum amounting in value to fifteen or twenty dollars in installments of commodities is paid by the man to the family of the woman whom he desires as a wife, a contract sometimes taking years for its fulfillment, the wife not becoming the property of the husband until the payment is complete. This contract is broken by misbehavior.

The age of the natives is never absolutely known, but judging from my own observation, marriage rarely occurs before fifteen in the women and seventeen or eighteen in the men.

The maternal affection is very great, and mothers commonly nurse their children for three or four years, which may account for the existing comparatively low birth-rate.

The condition of the slave is ordinarily not at all pitiable, and in more than one respect is much to be preferred to that of the common European workman.

During good behavior he is treated as a member of the family, and it is difficult to distinguish master from slave. The latter is only sold in case of great necessity, and then those are selected for sale who are unruly and have a bad reputation. The ordinary price demanded is fifteen dollars.

A freeman becomes a slave by capture in war or by his indebtedness, but ordinarily a freeman taken captive can recover

his freedom by the payment of two slaves. There is no exchange of prisoners in war. It is not remarkable that freemen frequently abandon their freedom for the state of slavery.

My servants were hired by "the moon," or twenty-eight days, and although the year is easily indicated by the wet and dry seasons, yet I have never observed any comprehension of the year as a unit. No one knows his age, and if asked the cause of his ignorance replies, "Because if I knew my age, I would then know when I must die."

Although births and marriages are not the occasion of fêtes or ceremonies, death has an entirely opposite result. To the native tribesman the death of a near relation is the cause of greater emotional feeling than with us, and is a remarkably sad and affecting event. Before, at the time, and after death the relations and acquaintances give themselves over to the wildest despair and most frantic grief.

Nothing ever impressed me more than these scenes, if I except the speed with which the departed one was forgotten. In this, as in many other things, they are children, and the stronger the grief, the sooner it is forgotten.

Among the Veys, after death and when the grief has somewhat abated, the body is wrapped in cloth and exposed to the public gaze, while in the presence of the inhabitants of the village a person designated for the purpose pronounces a eulogy upon the deceased. The interment takes place in the day or by torch-light, in the neighborhood of the village, and by preference near a footpath leading to it. Slaves are more frequently buried in the forest, and for a long time provisions are carried to the graves. The chiefs only are buried in the open places of the town.

The chiefs of the Bassas are never buried, but are put in wooden coffins and transported to a rocky island, serving as their mausoleum, in the river Cess. The dead chiefs are not looked upon as defunct, but are believed to continue an oversight over their successors and to keep them in their duties; but when a successor dies, then his predecessor becomes defunct and his coffin is removed from the place of honor.

The body of Maranna Sando, the Vey king, was put in a coffin and raised upon trestle-work at the entrance of his village, where it will remain until his successor is dead, when it will be re-

moved and buried with great festivities. A few weeks after this burial a memorial fête will be held, lasting two or three days.

Sorcery is employed to ascertain the guilt or innocence of the accused, and poisoned drinks are administered. The belief in a future life is common, but the details of their belief I have never been able to find out, as, when approached upon the matter, they become very reticent and at once seek to change the subject. For this reason the whole cult of the natives is still in doubt, but they like to think that the world about them is peopled by unseen beings; all their bad luck is attributed to them, and from their evil influences they protect themselves by charms, gri-gris, etc., made and blessed by the fetish priests and Mandingo dervishes, or "Murry-men," with which they literally surround themselves.

Of our worship they have no conception, but individually and collectively are under the control and direction of the fetish priests.

Often before the entrance to a village is found a sacred grove, and spread upon the path or hung above it is a holy mat, over which the natural or supernatural enemies dare not pass. Sacred animals are also maintained as a protection against the powers of evil. In one instance I found a *Python sebæ*, reminding me of the Dahomean cult. Strings of glass beads used as gri-gris, (possibly a survival of the rosary of the Roman church and an inheritance from the Portuguese missionaries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (Trans.)), are found bearing the name of *sacras*. I have often seen them lying in the public paths, and once when I stooped to pick one up my body servant cried, "Don't take it, daddy, i' be sacra!"

The natives are passionately fond of music and have a variety of musical instruments, including drums, castanets, and lyres. They are equally fond of singing and dancing, and sing when at work, following a leader and joining in the refrain. Their dancing, accompanied by the drum and castanets, is wild, passionate, and hysterical.

The war drum is used for signalling at a distance, but in Liberia the system is not as fully developed as in the Cameroons, where they have a special drum-signalling code.

* * *

COÖPERATION A NECESSITY FOR THE NEGRO.

In contemplating the history of the rise and progress of the colony of Lagos, any one of a reflective turn of mind cannot but be struck with the remarkable absence among the native element of the ability to combine successfully for a definite purpose. This characteristic defect, which is becoming more noticeable with advancing civilization, is a matter for extreme regret, since the well-being and prosperity of the community rest in no little degree upon the development of the quality of united coöperation. It is not denied that attempts have been made in this direction in the past, but they have resulted in almost every instance in complete failures. We look back to combinations which have been formed for literary, social, or business purposes and find that they have only managed to struggle through a precarious existence for a few months or years, to finally become extinct and forgotten. Particularly is this noticeable in the few business enterprises or partnership concerns which have sprung up in the colony and of which there is now no existing representative, for although we hear of such native firms as Messrs. Blank & Co., no person on the spot is deceived by the pleasant fiction, as it is generally well known that the Co. is a myth and that Mr. Blank is the sole representative and owner of the business.

It is a remarkable fact, and certainly not one that carries with it anything to be proud of, that at this stage of the colony's progress we are still almost entirely dependent upon foreign energy and capital for the means of a livelihood. With all the bountiful resources and riches of his country, the native is still satisfied to leave its development to foreign enterprise. Take away foreign capital and the many avenues of employment it opens to the native and his condition would be indeed calamitous. This prop upon which he has so long depended, there is no denying the fact, must sooner or later fail of support. We find that positions which in times past were filled by natives are becoming rapidly absorbed by Europeans, leaving to the former none but the most subordinate situations, with the correspondingly low salaries attached thereto. The time is within the recollection of the present generation when any native who could

use a pen was in the enjoyment of salaries which none but book-keepers of experience and long standing with their firms could hope to get at the present time. With such a deplorable outlook, is it not strange, nay, unaccountable, that we are yet content to remain supinely inactive, while Europeans come out here to make a fortune in a few years and retire to well-earned rest and enjoyment? To find out the cause or causes of such an unsatisfactory state of things is an object well worth the attention of all who have the interest of their race and country at heart.

The reasons that suggest themselves as operating detrimentally to this necessary element of union are (1) the want of mutual trust and confidence in each other. For some reason or other every man looks upon his neighbor with a certain amount of suspicion, if not of positive distrust, which disposes him to suspect some ulterior motive that aims at making him the victim of some bogus transaction propounded to him under the guise of a genuine business venture; (2) timidity, the lack of a spirit of enterprise, which engenders a reluctance or unwillingness to embark in any enterprise the success of which is not absolutely assured; and (3) selfishness, which is at the root of the whole matter. The first two of these causes may be traced to a short-sighted prudence—an over-cautiousness which in the end overreaches itself and defeats its own object; the latter is a vice as despicable in a community as in individuals, the presence of which is inimical to true progress wherever found.

The trend of events in the colony point forcibly to the conclusion that if the native, who is every day being more and more driven to the wall, would not be extinguished altogether, now is the time for him to put forth strenuous efforts to save himself. In doing this he cannot do better than aspire to the cultivation of the business activity, energy, and enterprise of the European with the same pertinacity he evinces in the pursuit of the superficial acquirements of the latter. The Napoleons of commerce, the railroad kings, and wealthy magnates of Europe and America, the history of whose career reads like pages from a romance, did not attain their positions of eminence without the boldness to risk something in the hope of gaining something. The foundation of their prosperity and the prosperity of their country are based upon the knowledge and application of the principle of "union is strength," the conviction of the truth of which gives

them the courage to embark in speculative enterprises in the formation of joint stock companies for the promotion of railway and steamship companies, mining syndicates, banking and insurance corporations, agricultural associations, and coöperative business concerns on an extensive scale. We must develop something of this spirit and pattern upon these lines if we would hope to succeed. The end is not so difficult of attainment as would appear on first contemplating it. The great and flourishing business concerns of civilized countries are not all built up or owned by rich men. The savings of people in very humble circumstances contribute largely to their stability and success. An example of the way in which this is done may be gathered from the method of a certain great company of ship owners and insurers in England. The company start to build a ship, the capital for the construction and equipment of which is represented by a number of shares which are offered to the public. The vessel is insured from the commencement of building, and the company guarantee a dividend of, say, 3 per cent. The man who purchases shares is at least sure of this small dividend, while he may get as high as 8 or 10 per cent. At any rate, he is safe, for should the ship be lost at sea he gets his money back from the insurance company. In this way the risk of the shareholders is reduced to a minimum. Why cannot we do something of the kind in other matters beside ship-building?

But, say the pessimists, the few attempts that have been made in this direction have been such failures. Well, try again. It is not by groveling among the ashes of despair that success is to be achieved; besides, failures are useful in their way, by showing others the rock upon which their predecessors have foundered. With the experience of the past as a guide, the prospect of success in the future is more hopeful. The time is certainly ripe for a move is this direction. The eyes of Europe are turned to Africa and to the West Coast. On the Gold Coast are springing up mining and industrial companies galore, and if recent announcements are any indication, attention is being directed to Yorubaland as a fruitful field for speculative operations. What will be the condition of the native if he does not now bestir himself it does not take a prophet to predict. The efforts for industrial training will be of little benefit if we have to depend upon foreign energy and capital to give stimulus and scope to

the utilization of the talents acquired. This subject is worthy of the serious consideration of every patriot, for upon it hinges the momentous question as to whether the native will soon be called upon to play a prominent part in the development of his country, or whether he is still destined to continue for an indefinite period the passive recipient of such treatment as the generosity or caprice of his employer may dictate.—*The Lagos Echo.*

GOLD PRODUCT OF AFRICA.

1890	$9,887,000	
1891	15,742,400 (increase,	59.2 + per cent.).
1892	24,232,000 (increase,	53.9 + per cent.).
1893	28,943,500 (increase,	19.4 + per cent.).
1894	40,271,000 (increase,	28.1 + per cent.).
1895	43,893,300 (increase,	9.0 per cent.).
Increase, 1890 to 1895		343.9 + per cent.

LIMITING NEGRO EDUCATION.

The steady upward progress of the Negro since the termination of the civil war is now seriously threatened with arrest. The passage of the Sheats law in Florida, while not nominally so, is really a direct blow at the elevation of the Negro, and if executed will, for a time at least, work great detriment. The action of the South Carolina Constitutional convention, so clearly foreshadowed, will practically denationalize the Negroes of South Carolina, and for the time put a very ugly obstacle in their pathway. We fear that these two cases are merely symptoms of a reviving negrophobia throughout the South. We wish we could feel that the unjustifiable, un-Christian, and inhuman prejudices against the Negroes were confined to Florida and South Carolina; but, unfortunately, there are indications that the disease extends over a much wider range of territory, is already breaking out here and there in the North, and even among those who heretofore have been reckoned as the fast friends of the colored race. One evidence of this is the character of the utterances in the public press regarding the kind of education that ought to

be provided for the Negroes of the South. Even our contemporary, *The Examiner*, under the editorial management of Dr. Wayland, whose name is a synonym for friendship for the Negro, curiously enough opposes his higher education, and lays special stress upon the necessity of industrial and practical training. Articles have appeared in the New York *Tribune* and in *The Century* tending in the same direction, and there seems to be a growing sentiment in favor apparently of limiting the education of the Negroes, if not to strictly trade-school work, at least to the rudiments of common English.

Far be it from us to undervalue the importance of the practical in any system of education, whether for white or black people. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the complete mastery of the rudiments—the three R's—as the indispensable foundation upon which to build a liberal culture, but we protest vehemently against any philosophy of education which will restrict the Negro schools to industrial training or to rudimentary education. It ought to be borne in mind that for more than two and a half centuries the Negroes have been taught to work under the lash, and that there is probably no body of people in the world of equal numbers where there is a larger number of able-bodied men and women not only able and willing to work, but actually engaged in manual labor. In this respect they differ *in toto* from the Indians, all of whose traditions and habits are opposed to manual labor, especially for the men. Not only during the days of slavery, but since its overthrow, the great mass of the drudgery in the South—in the house, the shop, and the field—has been and is performed by the colored people. They are "hewers of wood and drawers of water" in the southern half of the Union, while everywhere in the North—in the barber shops, the Pullman cars, the dining-rooms, kitchens, and elsewhere—there are found multitudes of Negroes able and willing to work; so that while it is true that they still need training in the higher forms of industries and as a preparation for industrial oversight, it is not true that there is any special demand that the schools for them should be preëminently workshops in which the ordinary occupations of life are to be learned.

We suspect that the prime motive of the white men in the South who urge most strongly the industrial education of the Negroes is the conviction in their minds that all the Negro needs

to know is how to work. This proceeds upon the assumption that the race is doomed to servitude. This is a denial of the manhood of the Negro, of his equality in any sense with the white man, and of his right to compete with him in any of the higher walks of life. The Negro is not to hold office; he is not to vote as other men vote, freely, and have his vote fairly counted; he is not to be called upon to contribute anything in the way of brain force to the national life; he is not to aspire to professional attainment; he must lay aside all ambition for literary or artistic recognition, and must be absolutely content with his lot as a servant. If educated at all, he must regard it a great boon to be allowed to read and write and have a little smattering of a knowledge of numbers. His eyes are to be closed to all the wonders of physical science, all the marvels of human history, all the secrets of philosophy, all the dreams of poetry, and all the enchanting inspirations of pure literature.

Such a theory as this, based upon the denial of the humanity of a whole race, is necessarily fatally defective and only needs to be stated to have its enormities revealed. There is no reason, either in the constitution of the Negro mind or in his political status, or in the material prosperity of the State, or in the higher welfare of the white man with whom he associates, or in the teaching of ethics, religion, or history, which will justify any such truncating and dwarfing of his education as is involved in denying to him an acquaintance with the classics, a knowledge of the humanities, and a training in philosophy. A true system of education for black or white begins in the kindergarten and ends in the university.—*The New York Independent.*

THE ZAMBESI INDUSTRIAL MISSION.

Exactly four years ago, in 1892, the first check sent from London in connection with the Zambesi Industrial Mission reached British Central Africa. That check was used to pay for land bought through Her Majesty's commissioner and consul general, and to purchase coffee seeds. Part of the land was immediately prepared as seed-beds, from which beds, six months later, the young coffee plants were transferred to nurseries. After they had remained in the nurseries for twelve months they were

planted out permanently in a ten-acre plot, which had been cleared and prepared while the plants were maturing. From that ten-acre plot the first crop of coffee has just been gathered in and disposed of in the Mincing Lane market, London, realizing fully £20 per acre, less freight and other small incidental charges.

In July, 1893, additional missionaries were sent out. They began at once to clear large portions of the mission estate, and in December of 1894 and the spring of 1895, when still more missionaries had reached Africa, they were able to plant out permanently on the Michiru estate about 270 acres of coffee. Let us carefully note that this large plantation was begun in 1894. It has been the aim of the mission to reach the point of self-support at a date three years later than the date at which the plantations were begun. Present prospects give every promise that this aim will be realized. Had the Zambesi Industrial Mission limited its operations to the sphere of its earliest efforts the mission would today have been self-supporting; but, of course, the work would have been on a very small scale. The great and pressing needs of the country, however, urged the workers "to attempt great things for God," and to "expect great things from God."

Again, had the operations of the mission since 1894 been confined to the larger sphere then being worked, the mission, as a whole, would become self-supporting in October, 1897, three years from the time when the Mitsidi and Ailsa Craig stations were opened up. Since then, however, the mission has again developed somewhat extensively by opening up five important stations in southern Angoniland. Of course, it will be seen that these latest stations cannot reach the point of self-support until the end of the third year from the date of their opening, viz., 1898.

Reverting to the two earlier stations, namely, Mitsidi and Ailsa Craig, at which there are respectively planted out 170 and 100 acres of coffee, from which a crop will be gathered in October, 1897, the following details of estimated expenditure and income will show that these two stations will next year be not only self-supporting, but be in a position financially to duplicate themselves, according to the programme of the mission.

Six hundred pounds during the present year would be, for

ordinary purposes, a very generous outlay on the Mitsidi plantation. Adding to this £500 more for spiritual and educational work, the total outlay will be £1,100. Presuming that the 170 acres at Mitsidi will realize three hundredweight of clean coffee per acre, which would be about 40 per cent. less than the yield of 1896, there should be gathered from that plantation in October next 25 tons of coffee, which, less all expenses, will bring in, when sold in London, £90 per ton, or a total of £2,250. From these figures it will be seen that the Mitsidi station will, in 1897, produce twice as much as it requires for itself.

Similarly, the plantation at Ailsa Craig of 100 acres will necessitate an outlay of, say, £350. Adding to this an equal sum for spiritual and educational work, the total cost of that station will be £700, and the crop of 1897 from its 100 acres should bring 15 tons of coffee at £90 per ton, equal to £1,350, a sum again sufficient to enable that station to support another equal to itself.

This, briefly, is the aim of the entire mission, and we have every reason to believe that each station in its turn, four years from the date of its planting, will have reached not only the point of self-support, but will be able also to duplicate itself.—*Zambesi Industrial Mission Paper, October, 1896.*

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The revolution of the year has brought us to the time prescribed by the Constitution for the Executive to inform you of the condition of the nation, and to recommend any measure for your consideration which he may think expedient; but before so doing let us acknowledge with unfeigned gratitude the beneficent Providence who has thus far sustained us.

The year has been marked and made memorable by incidents of the most painful, solemn, and lamentable character. On the 12th day of November last the whole country was called to part with their Chief Executive, Joseph James Cheeseman, who had been faithful in the service of his country and in the several

positions which he has filled with honor and credit to the nation as well as to himself. His death is recorded as first in the history of the nation while Chief Executive. Previous to his death the country had been called to mourn the loss of Rev. James H. Deputie, one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court; Rev. E. W. Diggs, ex-senator and sub-treasurer of Maryland county at the time of his death; Hon. H. A. Williams, acting Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of War and of the Navy; Rev. J. P. K. Valentine, of Maryland county; Hon. Dr. James S. Smith, who had also been long in the service of his country, and in addition to these serious, painful, and heavy losses, we have been afflicted by the death of Hon. Walker Brumskine, judge of the court of quarter sessions of Grand Bassa county, and who had more than once enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-citizens to represent them in the legislature.

The executive and judicial departments have sustained heavy strokes, and the country is still draped in mourning, weeping, and lamentation.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

I am thankful to inform you that nothing has transpired during the year to disturb the friendly relations existing between this and foreign governments.

FINANCE.

There still hangs over our financial system a gloom which, it appears, it is difficult to dispel. The only way I see in which to remedy the difficulties surrounding us in this respect is to bring the expenditures within the general receipts, or so manage as to increase the revenue beyond the general expenditures. Therefore, to increase the revenue there must be a more liberal policy adopted for the encouragement and extension of agriculture and commerce. Strict attention should also be given to the collection of the revenue. I therefore recommend the immediate building of suitable bonded warehouses in each county, through which all goods imported into this country should pass. Under this head I have to suggest a more careful attention to the observance of the law on the part of the financial officers, so as to afford less ground for complaints arising from this quarter.

THE INTERIOR.

It is the desire and determination of the government to open roads to the interior and to enforce peace and order upon them as far as our limits extend. In order to do this successfully I recommend that each of the native tribes be located in their respective sections of the country; that the census be taken, and that the government appropriate sufficient lands (which are not to be unlawfully disturbed) upon which they may plant coffee and other exportable products, as well as those necessary for home consumption. I would recommend also that block-houses be erected in each of these sections sufficient to accommodate a suitable number of men under the command of an officer with certain military authority, who shall have associated with him a discreet and influential aborigine, who shall be styled general superintendent of the tribe, with the authority to settle all matters or disputes arising among them not purely judicial.

If you think it practicable to put in operation the plan of opening the interior, as has been suggested, I trust you will pass an act to encourage missionaries to establish schools adjacent to these block houses and give them full protection in the work which they might establish for the promotion of civilization and Christianity. In connection with this I would further recommend that the government select three youths from each native tribe within our limit and try to secure the services of Thomas J. R. Faulkner and Rev. C. Irons to teach them engineering and other branches of industry.

THE SHIPPING LAW.

There are thousands of native Africans, Liberian citizens and subjects, who are being shipped on foreign vessels to other ports as laborers, two-thirds of whom never return and are wholly unaccounted for. In order to give them better protection and to make more certain their return, I would recommend that the shipping law be so amended as to require any and all persons soliciting, encouraging, or in any way connected with getting laborers to ship for other ports shall first pay into the general treasury $1,000 in gold annually and obtain a license for such privilege, and on failure to comply with this provision of the law

the party or parties shall be declared guilty of a crime equal to that of kidnapping, or be moderately dealt with by imprisonment, to work in irons on the public streets or elsewhere, for a term of not less than one year nor more than three years, and pay a fine each of not less than $500 nor more than $1,500 and all costs and charges of trial, in coin, and the shipping master shall require every master, owner, agent, or supercargo who is to receive these laborers for other ports to give bond with good and certain security, of not less than $500 for each laborer.

REPORTS.

As the law provides that the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War and Navy, Secretary of the Interior, the Postmaster General, and the Attorney General, who is a representative of the judiciary, shall lay their reports before you, I shall leave them to make such recommendations as they deem necessary for the harmonious working of their several departments.

TREATIES.

I have to inform you that the extradition treaty between Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands and this Republic, having been duly ratified and the ratification exchanged, is now in full force and effect.

On the 28th day of May last Her Majesty's consul, Colonel Frederick Cardew, who is also governor of the Colony of Sierra Leone, visited this city with authority to negotiate a treaty, which is to be reciprocal, for the engagement of laborers by the government and subjects of Great Britain. The late President Cheeseman appointed the Hons. Secretary of State and Attorney General to treat with him in the negotiation of the treaty, subject to the ratification of the Senate, a copy of which will be laid before you.

CONCLUSION.

An application for a concession to carry on mining operations in the county of Grand Bassa will be laid before you. The executive government have duly considered the proposal and having suggested such modifications as they deem advisable, I have to ask for the measure your favorable consideration.

A concession is also asked for the privilege of opening trade routes in Liberia by the means of railways, tramways, etc. I trust that, in view of the difficulties in the way of transporting trade from the interior, you will consider these proposals worthy of serious consideration.

CERTIFICATION OF INVOICES.

At your last session you amended the law providing for the certification of invoices so far as to abolish the consul fees without making any provisions for the remuneration of the consuls in the discharge of their duty. It was evidently an oversight, as it could not have been the intention of your honorable body to require our consuls at Liverpool, London, Hamburg, and other commercial centers to furnish offices and be on hand at all times to certify invoices of goods shipped to our ports without receiving some remuneration. I trust you will take this matter into consideration and pass an act that will relieve consular officers.

KROO COAST AND HALF CAVALLA.

I am pleased to inform you that peace has been restored at Settra Kroo, Nanna Kroo, and among the Half Cavalla, River Cavalla, and Cape Palmas tribes.

They have paid the fines imposed upon them, except a portion yet due by the Half Cavalla people, which they express a willingness to pay, but ask for a little more time. I trust you will therefore find it expedient to open ports of entry at Settra Kroo and Half Cavalla under such regulations as will insure a faithful and strict collection of the revenue. The time has come for the country to consider whether modification ought not to be introduced into the law confining foreign traders to ports of entry.

Gentlemen, if we trust in God I feel that with your coöperation we can solve the problem before us.

W. DAVID COLEMAN.

MONROVIA, *December 15, 1896.*

THE RELATIONS OF LIBERIA WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

President Cheeseman, of Liberia, in his inaugural address on the occasion of his recent reëlection, expressed regret at the apparent wane of interest on the part of the United States Government toward Liberia. The President, in alluding to this subject, said:

"It is a matter of regret that while recognizing American philanthropy as the promoter and founder of our national existence, yet we cannot account for the apparent retirement of that interest heretofore evinced by the United States Government. The United States Government cannot but recognize the relationship that naturally exists between them and ourselves—a relationship they cannot ignore and that demands of them greater consideration and sympathy for our efforts to establish a home for the oppressed Negro within our borders."

Unhappily for Liberia, those charged from time to time with the conduct of the government appear to be oblivious of the causes that conspire to militate against the vital interests of the State. These causes are traceable to the attitude and treatment by the government of its native population. The spirit of the Liberian government appears to be to build up a nationality of American immigrants. No account is taken or regard had for the vast native population inhabiting the country. There is no feeling of brotherhood or relationship of any kind existing or fostered, as far as we can see, with these tribes; on the contrary, there is a feeling of alienation, as if the Liberians belonged to a foreign race. American ideas, sentiment, and aspirations are allowed to prevail to the total exclusion of racial aspirations and duties. Liberia has never been really a part of Africa, but more like a slice of Georgia or South Carolina stuck on to the West Coast, with all the prejudices and limitations of those transatlantic localities. The Americo-Liberian—as he likes to call himself—has from the very first failed to grasp a right conception of the *raison d'etre* of the new state. This is apparent in the document which he issued to the world when he proclaimed

his independence. This document, called "The Declaration of Rights," opens with the following curious sentence:

"We, the people of Liberia, were originally the inhabitants of North America."

This is not a historical fact, and its educating influence upon the Americo-Liberian youth has been disastrous. We do not find fault with the fathers, whose disadvantages were such that they could not at once appreciate the force of such language. The statement of their origin, to have been accurate, should have been as follows: "We, the people of Liberia, are composed of the aborigines of this country and the descendants of Africans who were carried into captivity to the western hemisphere;" and if Liberia ever grows into a proper Negro State she will revise her "declaration of rights." It should never be forgotten that it was upon the basis of the numerical status of the native population that the British government recognized the Republic and led the way for other nations to do the same. When the United States, on account of its peculiar institutions, refused to acknowledge Liberia's independence, England extended the hand of welcome to the new State. England, therefore, is the mother of Liberia's nationality, whatever the Liberians themselves may think.

There are two other striking sentences in their "declaration of rights" which the Liberians should read and which should cause serious reflection. Among the causes which they assign as driving them from the United States to seek a free country are these. They say:

"We were taxed without our consent."

"We were compelled to contribute to the resources of a country which gave us no protection."

We should wish to ask the Liberian government whether the natives of Cavalla and the other Kroo tribes generally have not the same cause of complaint? The United States Government now feels that Liberia has failed in its mission; therefore, since 1882—for fourteen years—they have not felt themselves called upon to aid them by the prestige of an American man-of-war on the Liberian coast.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

ITEMS.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LANDS OF LIBERIA.—Our present system of common schools was established under circumstances quite different from present ones. Then education was largely cared for by foreign philanthropic aid, and many were the anxious consultations and wearisome struggles before the existing laws of our present school system were framed and passed.

But, while we owe a debt of gratitude to those who with intelligent foresight established the present school system, still it is obvious that it is not meeting the demands of the present day. We must have more modern methods for educating our youth, so that they can take their part in greatly multiplied industrial pursuits. We need teachers with higher qualifications, and to secure them must provide better salaries and a more permanent and continuous tenure of office.

The report of our worthy school commissioner, Mr. J. C. Stevens, has been thoroughly examined by this department, and has met with such high commendation that I have thought it important to transmit the same to you for consideration.

* * * There are few if any civilized countries in the world which are not provided with laws for the protection and saving of public lands. The unrestricted disposition made of our Government lands at present, without any prospect of their being improved, enriches nobody but the surveyors, while the Government receives nothing from taxes and but little from the purchase-money. The increasing mania for holding large tracts of land in our frontier settlements, purchased at a mere nominal price and on which no taxes are levied, if not restricted, will in a few years become very detrimental to our interests by preventing the desirable location of immigrants and the providing of farms for the natives as they become civilized.—*Extract from the Report of the Secretary of the Interior to the Legislature of Liberia, December 16, 1896.*

COWRIES.—Throughout the greater part of Hausaland, the only currency which is everywhere recognized consists of cowrie shells. When we remember that 2,000 cowries, on an average, are only equal in value to one shilling, and that the equivalent of ten shillings weighs something like 100 pounds, we can easily understand how great an obstacle to trade and enterprise the use of such a currency must necessarily be.—*Rev. C. H. Robinson.*

THE AFRICAN DRINK TRAFFIC QUESTION—List of the Duties.—The drink traffic of West Africa is a question which is engaging much public interest at the present moment. Various suggestions have been made with a view of suppressing the evil. The difficulty appears to be that many countries own the coast line, and in all of these different duties are charged. The

following is a list of the duties charged on spirits at the various British and German colonies:

Sierra Leone (English), 3*s.* per gallon.

Gold Coast (English), 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon; 1½*d.* extra for each degree over proof.

Gambia (English), 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon; over proof, 2*s.*; brandies, 3*s.*

Togoland (German), 9¾*d.* per gallon.

Lagos (English), 1*s.* per gallon; 3*d.* extra in proportion for over proof.

Niger Coast (English), 1*s.* per gallon; 1*d.* extra for each degree over proof.

Cameroons (German), 9½*d.* per gallon, the untested 1*s.* 7*d.*, and in wood 1*s.* 2¼*d.*

When it is remembered that the respective territories join each other, it will be seen that any increase of duty on imports into one place will mean that diversion of such imports into the other country. This is the point which the merchants and traders say must be always borne in mind when change of duties is contemplated. Then, again, it is not generally known that when natives come down from the interior for goods they require a "parcel" of various articles—that is to say, tobacco, cloth, brass rods, beads, gin or rum, and other goods. If they cannot get all from the one place they go to another, so that if they could not get spirits in the English colony they would go to the neighboring one of the Germans or the French and not only buy their rum and gin, but also their other goods. It will be thus seen that any action for the suppression of the drink traffic must be of a united nature. All the trade spirits imported into West Africa are manufactured in Hamburg and Rotterdam, which of course is a reason why the German authorities would not be particularly eager to put a prohibitive duty on spirits.—*Shipping Telegraph.*

A Great Man.—His Excellency Joseph James Cheeseman, President of the Republic of Liberia, whose death is announced as having taken place at Monrovia on Thursday, the 12th of November, was a distinguished African. President Cheeseman was not a repatriate to Liberia, but, born and bred in the famous and only Christian State in West Africa, he remained through childhood, youth, and manhood, and in favorable and unfavorable conditions of life, true to the traditions of the Republic, honest to the love of country, and sincere to the instinct of race. Of pure African blood, he was the son of Rev. J. H. Cheeseman, of Edina, Grand Bassa, where he was born March 7, 1843. The elder Cheeseman died June 20, 1859, leaving the youth to plod out and up his distinguished career at 16 years of age. Of educational advantages he had only that—if that could be so called—which he seized from his father at home or during the intervals of hard work on the farm. He had none other. They were poor people, and yet at the age of sixteen young Cheeseman became the head of a family consisting of himself, his mother, and four younger children—one boy and three girls. No other inheritance, no

other legacy came to the youth or to the family than the simple homestead where they had lived and the farm where they had worked; but more sorrows came. On the 8th of November, 1862, three years after the father's death, Mrs. Cheeseman, the mother of the youth, fell ill and died, leaving to the sole care of young Cheeseman the four younger children. But in Liberia men have not only to care for their family or relations, men have to care also for the State. The flag of Liberty waves at every door and the harp of freedom strikes at every hearth. It could not be otherwise. The people, restored to their ancestral land from thraldom and death, subjection and oppression, are breathing the air of freedom and endeavoring to prove whether they were breathing it indeed. Their peculiar condition makes them suspicious of outside help and wary of extraneous assistance. Therefore the burden of the family and the burden of the State lay heavily on every shoulder. A national spirit is engendered and every youth and every maiden aspires to take a part in the building of the walls of their "city." Considered politically, Liberia is at present the only place in Anglo-Africa where there is a legitimate effort at an object of and a source for aspiration. It happened, therefore, that besides steady, hard work, augmented by the care and burden of younger brothers and sisters, young Cheeseman took to hard study and this mainly at night. In the day he could have no time for anything but work. His efforts were, however, crowned with success. On the 6th of February, 1862, while he was in his nineteenth year, he received a commission from the government as clerk of the court for the county of Grand Bassa. His efficiency at this post brought his young years to notice to his own credit, and his commission became subject to renewals by different Presidents to the year 1866. He married happily and congenially on the 9th of January, 1865. As by the laws of the Republic every able-bodied citizen of a certain age was to serve as soldier, he entered Liberian military life as a private and in September, 1865, was commissioned as adjutant of the Second regiment, and filled it creditably till he was called to the church; and having had early religious impressions, he entered the ministry, and was ordained pastor at Edina November 15, 1868. The church which at his ordination numbered 50 rose to 520 and became the model church of the denomination. The exigencies of the State requiring it, he became collector of customs in 1871 and filled the office most admirably till 1875, when he relinquished it at the call of domestic duty, his private commercial efforts having attained significant proportions. In the same month of his resignation of the office of collector of customs he was by a large majority elected to the House of Representatives. He was reëlected May, 1877. In 1879 he declined to accept a nomination as Senator, owing to his growing business. He was, however, elected president of the corporate town of Edina for three consecutive terms, the last ending March, 1880. For ten years he seemed to have retired from public view; at least we lose sight of him. In the lives of all great men such periods not seldom occur, a period of examination and reconstruction, of invocation and inspiration; but on the 5th of May, 1891, we find him elected President

of the Republic by a majority of votes. He was reëlected in 1893 and re-elected again in 1895. During his presidential term important measures were adopted for the struggling State, but not one mishap or misunderstanding, misinterpretation or misapprehension, failure or blunder has shaken the people's confidence in the integrity and uprightness, in the self-sacrifice and public spiritedness, in the industry and faithfulness, in a word, in the unbounded patriotism of President Cheeseman. When the scroll of history will be unrolled to the gaze of the nations at the great levee, the Recording Angel will "have the honor" undoubtedly to announce the name of Joseph James Cheeseman among those of "whom the King delighteth to honor." He dies a martyr to his country's cause. "His eye was not dim nor his natural force abated." A loyal son of Africa, may his like increase! Let individuals perish and the race be more and more.—*The Lagos Standard.*

The Rubber Industry.—The information that comes to hand of the state of the rubber forests in the hinterland is not such as tends to betoken a promising prospect for the future of that industry. From all accounts the eagerness which seized upon all and every one to engage in the pursuit has resulted in a wholesale mutilation and destruction of the rubber-producing trees, which are now showing unmistakably symptoms of decay in every direction. This is exactly what has happened on the Gold Coast, and is to be attributed to nothing save an excessive and reckless cupidity, which disregards everything save immediate gain, and to which every other consideration is sacrificed. It is needless to point out the suicidal tendency of a policy which takes no account of the morrow, and which is a literal "killing of the goose with the golden egg." It should be understood that the sap is to the tree what the blood is to the human body, and that the extraction of the whole of this life fluid means death and decay. Apart from the mutilation of the trees, and which might result in their being hacked in such manner as to prevent the periodical and uniform flow of the sap, the trees after being tapped should be allowed to lie fallow for some time in order to recuperate the vitality lost through the extraction of the sap. It stands to reason that if this is not done and the tree is allowed no time to obtain nutrition by the absorption of a portion of its sap it must inevitably fall into decay. There is little hope that common sense will be able to assert itself against the inordinate cupidity which the industry has awakened. Something, however, must be done to save it from the extinguishment which threatens it. The native kings and chiefs should all be given explicit and positive instructions not to permit the trees in the forests owned by them to be mutilated or worked excessively. Close observation ought to be able to determine the proper time and extent to which the trees can be used without involving risk of decay, and they should not be allowed to be worked beyond such extent. In the meantime the European residents in the hinterland might be instructed to give this matter particular attention and to do all in their

power to prevent the destruction of the trees. We quite apprehend the difficulty of placing under supervision and control large virgin forests in an uncivilized country. The matter is, however, of sufficient importance to justify an effort being made to do so, and as the native chiefs and people begin to realize the advantage which a policy of preservation insures they will eventually fall in with it and make it less difficult of being carried into effect. It would also be well to advise the chiefs to plant new trees in places where there is evidence of much decay going on. We understand that plants abound in the rubber forests, and which might be utilized for the purpose. If the ire (*Kickxia africana*) has the same characteristics of propagating its species as the ceara plant (*Mahihot glaziovi*), then all that would be necessary would be to clear the space around a thriving tree and allow it to do its own work; or, where plants do not exist, the ceara description might be introduced, as has been done at Abeokuta. An industry which is producing an export trade of something like fifty thousand pounds monthly is certainly of sufficient importance to be looked after and preserved, and we have no doubt that the authorities will do all that is in their power to protect and promote what with care and attention promises to be the leading export commodity of the colony.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

Belgian Atrocities on the Congo.—One of the most horrible instances of cruelty that ever came to my knowledge occurred in the district of the Ouelle. A Belgian officer, a lieutenant, had been dispatched with a force of some fifty or sixty men to a village to capture the chief, who had been guilty of some fault against the government. The force arrived in the village, but only to find it apparently deserted. In rummaging, however, in the huts for plunder they came upon two women, mother and daughter, who had not had time to get away, owing to the mother being ill. They were brought before the officer in command, who demanded of them where the chief was in hiding. The women either did not know or would not tell; the officer could only get the same answer from them after repeated inquiries, and finally lost his temper. He ordered them to be secured and laid out on the ground, where they were held down by eight of his strongest men, and a stalwart soldier then proceeded to administer fifty strokes of the "chikotte" to each. The "chikotte" is a strip of dried hippopotamus hide about five feet long and an inch wide at the butt end, tapering down to a thin, cruel lash. After the fifty lashes had been administered the lieutenant again asked them for information as to the whereabouts of the chief, only to receive the same answer. The flogging continued until each had received 200 lashes. Finally, this Belgian officer ordered his men to cut off the breasts of the women, and then left them to die where they lay. Some time after this officer came down the country, and in passing Tchimbi, one of the stations of the Itimberi, he stopped, as all white men do when passing another white man's station. My chief agent and his second came down to the river bank to

receive the visitor, but when they saw who it was they politely requested him to get in his canoe again, at the same time saying that they could not possibly give hospitality to assassins. I am happy to be able to give the names of these two Belgians who thus refused to associate themselves with such a ruffian, although of their own country and a State officer. They are MM. Morrison and Lointain. These are the instances of the kind of warfare that is waged against the Congo people, and is at the bottom of the unsettled condition of the State. The high State officials can scarcely be blamed. They do what they can to improve matters, but it is impossible to deal with this sort of thing from Boma. What control can possibly be had on the actions of a headstrong young officer several weeks' journey distant?

Many here in Europe are perhaps not aware that the Belgian officers receive a considerable commission on the ivory and rubber they collect, in many cases amounting to 25 per cent. of the value. A year or two ago the Belgian officials even received so much per head for the slaves they sent down to the training camps of Buzzoko, Equator, Kinohassa, and others. I have often seen a slave steamer coming down river packed with slaves—the State men call them *liberers*—sitting on the deck in rows without a spare inch to move in, and at night, when the steamer stops, chased ashore into the bush to find shelter as they may.—*Alfred Parminter.*

Reinforcements for Africa.—The general missionary committee appropriated $3,000 for reinforcements for Liberia, and Bishop Hartzell has secured the services of the Rev. A. P. Camphor, B. D., and his wife and Dr. W. N. Fowler.

Mr. Camphor is a graduate of New Orleans University and Gammon Theological Seminary, and has been a successful pastor at Germantown, Pennsylvania, and Orange, New Jersey, and is at present pursuing post-graduate studies in Union Theological Seminary and ColumbiaCollege. His wife also is a graduate. They go to take charge of the Monrovia Seminary in Liberia. He taught four years in New Orleans University as professor of mathematics, and was a Sunday-school scholar in one of the Bishop's churches in Louisiana when he was appointed presiding elder in 1873. He is regarded as an exceptionally well qualified man for the work to which he goes.

Dr. W. N. Fowler is superintendent of a hospital in connection with the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. He has for four years felt that his work was to be that of a medical missionary, and regards this opening as from the Lord. His dear old mother, when notified of the opening, said, "Praise the Lord!" The Doctor's wife joins him heartily in the great work. They sailed for Europe in time to depart with the Bishop from Liverpool December 30.

Ninety per cent. of all the white missionaries who have gone into Central Africa and on the West Coast during the past fifty years have either

died or been compelled to leave after a brief service on account of ill health. This is the estimate of Mackay, the greatest African missionary since Livingstone, who served and died in Uganda, East Africa.

Bishop Hartzell feels that one of the first things he must have is a hospital in Monrovia. Out of the fund appropriated by the missionary society for reinforcements, Dr. Fowler's outgoing and salary expenses are provided for for a year,

It will require $5,000 to inaugurate and maintain a hospital on a modest but efficient scheme for two years. The Bishop has in cash and pledges perhaps $1,500 from a few friends to whom the matter has been presented. Two hundred and fifty dollars will establish and maintain a bed for two years. A thousand dollars will be needed to open and maintain a free clinic, and about $1,000 will be needed to secure hospital appliances.

The Bishop sailed from New York December 9 and from Liverpool December 30.—*Northern Christian Advocate.*

Sierra Leone—Letter of Governor Cardew.—Grand Canary, August 4, 1896. *Sir*: Your letter of the 4th ultimo has been forwarded to me here, where I am for a few weeks' change of air. I am glad to supply what information I can about Sierra Leone, but, being for the present absent from that colony, I am unable to obtain the statistics you require and the subjects of which you enumerate in the last paragraph of your letter; but I may mention a great deal of the information can be obtained from the Sierra Leone annual blue book, and I have much pleasure in forwarding a copy of my address to the legislative council of Sierra Leone in April last, which deals fully with the geography and with some of the indigenous products of the interior, and from which you may possibly get some of the information you require.

Adverting to a few of the inquiries in your letter: With regard to acquiring land for colonization, I would mention at the outset that I do not believe any portion of the protectorate of Sierra Leone is, on climatic grounds, fit for colonization by Europeans. Land can be acquired, I have no doubt, by a syndicate or company from the native chiefs, but only on approval of the governor. With regard to the length of passage, fourteen days is the least time at present occupied, and this is far too long, as you are aware, for the preservation for the market of such a delicate fruit as the banana. The banana has not been cultivated on the coast for the market, and until it is properly cultivated I doubt whether it will possess the delicate aroma of the Las Palma banana, for instance.

Plantations of rubber and kola trees, I feel sure, would be most remunerative to the capitalist—far more so, I believe, than coffee or cocoa—but the cultivation must be superintended by Europeans.

The colonial government, I am sure, will use every endeavor in the future to open up the interior with good roads. I see no reason why vehicles drawn by mules or oxen should not be used.

A railway has already been commenced, and in three years' time I hope it may be in working order along the first section of thirty miles.

The harbor at Sierra Leone is the best on the West Coast, and goods can be landed in any weather. Believe me, yours faithfully, CARDEW.—*The African Times.*

ACTS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA DURING THE SESSION OF 1895–'96.

Joint resolution granting ten acres of land in fee-simple to each male member of the Cape Palmas tribe, in Maryland county.

Whereas the Cape Palmas tribe have clearly made known to this session of the National Legislature their wish to be incorporated into the general body politic by obtaining lands in fee-simple in the county of Maryland: therefore,

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in legislature assembled:

SECTION 1. That from and immediately after the passage of this joint resolution his excellency the President is hereby fully authorized to grant deeds for ten acres of land in fee-simple to each male member twenty-one years of age and upwards of the Cape Palmas tribe, in the county of Maryland, on the following conditions:

SEC. 2. A certificate of allotment, stating number and boundaries, shall be given to each male citizen of said tribe, to be exchanged for a deed in fee-simple as soon as two acres of said land is improved and planted down in agricultural or economic plants. This land shall be held by the grantees subject to the provisions of the fifth section of "An act pertaining to the allotment and improvement of lands," First Liberia Statutes.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this resolution shall be so construed as to prevent the offspring of marriages contracted according to the usual customs of the Cape Palmas tribe from inheriting said land in accordance with the provisions of the second section of this resolution.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed by limitation.

Joint resolution authorizing the coining of twenty-five thousand dollars in copper and silver coin.

It is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in legislature assembled:

SECTION 1. That from and after the passage of this resolution the Secretary of the Treasury, under the direction of the President, shall cause to be coined and placed in circulation five thousand dollars in copper coin one cent and two cent pieces, and twenty thousand dollars in silver coin,

denominations of five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty cent pieces. Not more than fifteen thousand dollars in silver shall be issued in any one year.

SEC. 2. It is further resolved that the said coin shall be a legal tender for customs dues, debts, public or private, provided said sum in payment of import duties do not exceed 50 per cent. of the amount of duties to be paid on all custom bills.

The Treasurer of the Republic is directed to exchange this coin for gold, when so required by holders, of any sum not less than twenty-five dollars.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 26, 1896.

An act amending the acts chartering Liberia College.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in legislature assembled:

SECTION 1. That to section 2 shall be added words as follows: *Provided, however,* That each legally constituted board or corporation, either foreign or domestic, administrating trust funds held in the interest of Liberia College, shall have the right of electing for terms of one year or longer two delegates to sit with the trustees of Liberia College and enjoy during their term of office the same powers and privileges as the members of the board of trustees herein constituted.

SEC. 2. That the first sentence of section 4 shall be amended so that it shall read: The board of trustees shall elect the president of the college on the joint nomination of the boards and societies contributing to the support of the institution; also a vice-president and secretary of their board from their own body, and some suitable and trustworthy person to be the treasurer of the corporation; they shall also elect, on the nomination of the president, such professors, tutors, and other officers of instruction and government of the college as are to be paid from Government appropriation or from funds administered by the board of trustees of Liberia College, and shall declare the tenure of their respective duties, salaries, emoluments, and responsibilities, and for good and sufficient causes shall remove from office any person so appointed by them.

SEC. 3. That the last sentence of section 4, beginning with words "They shall provide," &c., shall be stricken out, and there shall be substituted the words "The board of trustees, upon the recommendation of the faculty, may confer the usual collegiate honors and degrees."

SEC. 4. That the first clause of the second sentence in section 7 shall be amended so as to read, "The said executive committee shall have the general supervision of the prudential affairs of the college, excepting the instruction and discipline of students, and may contract debts and discharge the same agreeable to the provisions of the by-laws."

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 27, 1896.

An act granting a road right or right of way and other lands to the American Colonization Society and the New York State Colonization Society.

Whereas the American Colonization Society and the New York State Colonization Society have entered upon a new policy of colonization in Liberia, involving the careful selection of the most suitable immigrants and the oversight and employment of the same on their arrival in Liberia; and whereas said societies have made application for permission to survey and construct a wagon road from the head of navigation of the St. Paul's river at White Plains to the vicinity of Mount Coffee and for grants of lands along the proposed roads and in the vicinity of Mount Coffee to serve as the location of the first settlement to be undertaken under the new plan: therefore,

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

Section 1. That the said societies are hereby authorized to survey, open, and construct a road from the head of navigation of the St. Paul's river to Mount Coffee.

Sec. 2. The agent or agents of the said societies shall file with the land commissioner of Montserrado county a map or plan of the proposed road.

The President of the Republic is hereby directed to grant to the American Colonization Society, for the purpose of colonization or for other purposes, the public lands on each side of the said road to the depth of half a mile, and such other tracts or parcel of lands in the vicinity of Mount Coffee as may be selected by the agent of said Society, not exceeding in total area the private lands within the half mile from the said road.

Sec. 4. The President of the Republic is hereby directed to add one thousand acres to the tract granted to the New York State Colonization Society by an act approved January 20, 1894.

Sec. 5. It is hereby further directed that the reservation of eight thousand acres of land designed for a settlement in the vicinity of Mount Coffee by an act approved January 15, 1895, be placed at the disposal of the said societies, their agents to have the power to select and survey lands under the provisions of this section: *Provided*, That notices of such selection and maps of the desired tracts be filed with the land commissioner of Montserrado county.

Sec. 6. The land commissioner of Montserrado county is hereby ordered and directed not to issue any order for the survey of lands, nor to grant deeds for any lands controlled by the said societies, under the provisions of this act, without the written approval of the agents of said societies.

Sec. 7. The surveys necessary for determining the location and boundaries of the roads, grants, and reservations provided for in this act shall be executed under the direction and at the expense of the said societies by such Liberian Government surveyors as their agents may select: *Provided*,

That all applications for deeds and notices of reservations provided for in this act shall be accompanied by maps or plats of the lands thus surveyed.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 27, 1896.

An act granting certain lands in Grand Bassa county to the American Colonization Society.

Whereas the American Colonization Society, having become trustee of the "All Saints' Hall Mission School," established by Mrs. Margaretta Scott, near Hartford, in Grand Bassa county, has declared its intention of continuing the educational and other work of the station: therefore,

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in legislature assembled:

That the President of Liberia is hereby authorized to grant to the American Colonization Society, for purposes of settlement, agriculture, education, or other purposes, one thousand acres of land adjoining the two hundred acres granted to the trustees of the "All Saints' Hall" by an "act approved December 31, 1880."

The said American Colonization Society is further empowered to select through its agents in Liberia a tract or tracts of land, not to exceed five thousand acres in total area, in the vicinity of said "All Saints' Hall" station for purposes of settlement, and to file notice of such selection with the land commissioner of Grand Bassa county, who is hereby directed not to issue any orders to surveyors or grant any deed for any part of the land selected for settlement according to the provisions of this section without the written approval of the agent of said Society. In case the land immediately adjoining the "All Saints' Hall" grant of two hundred acres of land has been granted to other parties by deed anterior to date of this act, then and in that case the grant of one thousand acres given in section first of this act shall include an equivalent number of acres of land lying nearest and most convenient to said "All Saints' Hall" site not otherwise granted at the date of this act.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 27, 1896.

An act granting a concession to construct, work, and maintain railways, telegraph, and telephone lines in the Republic of Liberia.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in legislature assembled:

That there is hereby granted to Thomas J. R. Faulkner, of the city of New York, U. S. A., for himself and his associates, their heirs and successors or assigns, the right to construct, maintain, and operate a system of railroads, telegraph, and telephone lines in the Republic of Liberia from the principal cities and towns on the seacoast to the interior, to-

gether with such branches as the concessionaire and his associates may from time to time desire to construct.

The surveys shall begin within eight months from the passage of this act.

2. The concessionaires shall have all of the public lands necessary for tracks, siding, and all other buildings and works adjacent thereto. In case the tracks run through private lands the price therefor shall be fixed by agreement or arbitration.

3. Gauge of roads shall not be less than thirty-six inches.

4. The concessionaire, his successors or assigns, shall furnish free transportation to the President of the Republic, heads of departments, chief officers, army or navy, members of the House of Representatives, Senate, and judges of the Supreme Court, and men persons traveling for and on account of the government. Goods and munitions of war carried for and on account of the government shall be transported at 50 per cent. of the price charged for like services otherwise, official messages of the mail to be arranged with the proper department.

5. The concessionaire shall have the privilege of free mining of coal, iron, and other metals necessary to construct, maintain, and operate the road.

6. All materials, wares, and tools for the road, telegraph and telephone lines, or for the workmen of the company or the concessionaires shall be admitted free of import duties.

7. The property of the company shall not be taxed for twenty-five years.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 27, 1896.

Booker T. Washington and the Negro in America.—Booker T. Washington, born during the thrilling *ante-bellum* days, has experienced a taste of the bitter fruits of the tree of slavery, and since the emancipation and as he grew up has noted with a studious eye and thoughtful mind the condition and circumstances of his people. This has led him to the formation of a definite plan of action, which he considers best adapted to their improvement. He noticed that the friends of the Negro laid too much stress upon his intellectual development, to which end most of the help he received was directed, to the neglect of the training of the hands. The Negro himself had learned—fruitful crop of the seeds of slavery—to look upon all labor as degrading, and his efforts for improvement were mainly made toward the attainment of a classic or collegiate education. Mr. Washington saw around him—with here and there notable exceptions—a race springing up whose intellectual qualifications mostly fitted them for small politicians or poor preachers. He noticed that the few exceptions to be found in really cultured and intellectual men and women were not enough to wield any appreciable influence in gaining recogni-

tion for themselves or the race. On the contrary, their very culture and refinement rendered them more sensitive to their awkward situation. Such, we opine, must have been the result of his observations.

The road to the elevation of the Negro, Mr. Washington decided, lay through the medium of an industrial education—through the field, the workshop, the factory. Firmly persuaded in this opinion, after graduating from the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, he started to carry out his idea, selecting Tuskegee, Alabama, as the scene of his operations. There, in the heart of the Black Belt, the home of prejudice and intolerance against the Negro, with no sympathetic environment, but rather surrounded by an atmosphere which tended to cripple and discourage his every effort, he started his industrial school with but a few scholars and only one teacher. With what energy, determination, and assiduity he pursued his object and with what success, let the faint echoes, which reach us even at this distance, of the storm of applause and approbation which greet the name of Tuskegee and Washington wherever they are mentioned in America, tell. This young man, not yet past forty, unknown a few years ago, has suddenly blossomed into prominence as a leader of his race. Men of exalted stations in the land delight to do him honor, and the first university in America has recently recognized his merit by conferring upon him an honorary degree. For all these ovations, his head is not a bit turned, and throughout his travels in the length and breadth of the land and in the addresses he delivers to enthusiastic audiences, which listen with rapt attention to the thrilling words which fall from his eloquent lips, he is animated only by one thought, one purpose—the salvation of his people.

The end and aim of his work are better expressed in his own words, as seen in an article from his pen which recently appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly:*

"Nothing else so soon brings about right relations between the two races in the South as the industrial progress of the Negro. Friction between the races will pass away in proportion as the black man, by reason of his skill, intelligence, and character, can produce something that the white man wants or respects in the commercial world. This is another reason why at Tuskegee we push the industrial training. We find that as every year we put into a southern community colored men who can start a brick yard, a saw-mill, a tin shop, or a printing office—men who produce something that makes the white man partly dependent upon the Negro for something instead of all the dependence being on the other side—a change takes place in the relations of the races. Let us go on for a few more years knitting our business and industrial relations into those of the white man till a black man gets a mortgage on a white man's house that he can foreclose at will. The white man on whose house the mortgage rests will not try to prevent that Negro from voting when he goes to the polls. It is through the dairy farm, the truck garden, the trades and commercial life largely that the Negro is to find his way to the enjoyment

of all his rights. Whether he will or not, a white man respects a Negro who owns a two-story brick house."

We do not for our part believe that any amount of industrial excellence on the part of the Negro will ever, any more than his intellectual attainments have done, gain for him recognition at the hands of his white brother—will ever help in solving the race problem in America; on the contrary, it is to be feared that as he advances in this direction and is consequently brought more into competition with the white race, the inevitable crisis will be precipitated. Meanwhile, however, Professor Washington is doing a great work—the work to which he is called. He is, unconsciously perhaps, but yet surely, preparing the American Negro for the fulfillment of his destiny—his ultimate return from the house of bondage home to Africa and the work that awaits him. In that light we regard Professor Washington and his mission, and as such we bid him God speed in his noble work and wish for him all the success which such a grand object and his single-heartedness and zealous devotion to it merits.—*The Lagos Echo.*

The Situation in West Africa.—In view of the interest which attaches to the present situation of affairs in West Africa and the issues which hang upon the campaign undertaken by the Royal Niger Company, it may be well, says *The Times*, to summarize briefly the leading features of the actual position and the steps by which that position has been reached.

In the first place, it is necessary to distinguish between the situation on the coast and that in the interior, and for this purpose it is essential that the geography of the district should be present to the mind. The configuration of the basins of the rivers Niger and Binué as they float to the sea may be represented by the letter Y, of which the tail stands on the Atlantic coast. The distance from the confluence of the rivers to the coast is about 300 miles. The district is traversed from west to east by rising ground, from which other rivers running parallel with the main flood of the Lower Niger flow also to the sea. These minor rivers are known under the general name of the Oil rivers. Their mouths constitute coast ports, where African trade has for a very long period been carried on. The names of the seven principal Oil rivers are Benin, Brass, New Calabar, Bonny, Quaebo, Opobo, and Old Calabar. The coast district through which they flow to the sea spreads east and west of the mouth of the Lower Niger and forms one British dependency known as the Niger Coast Protectorate. It stretches from the frontier of Lagos to the Rio del Rey, which is the frontier of the German Cameroons. The mouths of the Niger and the territory lying round and enclosed by the rivers Niger and Binué up to the limits of the British hinterland in the interior constitute the sphere of influence of the Royal Niger Company, which for purposes of convenience may be spoken of as "Nigeria." Thus we get in this portion of British West Africa three separate British dependencies,

the colony of Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate filling up the space between the French and German frontiers upon the seaboard, with the Royal Niger Company's territory of Nigeria spreading Y-shaped into the interior and possessing on the coast only the narrow riverain strip by which it commands access to the sea. The colonies of Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate cover together about 3,000 square miles. Nigeria has an extent of about 500,000 square miles. For the administration of affairs upon the coast the imperial government is directly responsible. The administration of affairs in the interior is carried on under the charter granted about ten years ago to the Royal Niger Company.

In the present situation in West Africa there are two distinct elements of interest. One is the unexpected disturbance on the coast at Benin, the other is the campaign, long prepared, of which the first decisive blow has just been struck by the Royal Niger Company in the interior. That the two crises should have occurred at the same moment is merely fortuitous, and the only connection between them is such as might result from any embarrassment caused in the rear of the Niger Company's operations by a sympathetic native revolt along the coast.

The Benin disturbance, with which the imperial authorities are directly concerned and for which all necessary steps are about to be promptly taken, is only of the usual order of trouble which is apt to arise upon the Oil rivers. The native chiefs of each river mouth have in turn given occasion for punitive expeditions of which the result is in all cases the same. The offending chief is deposed, military posts are established in his country, and the district is gradually opened to civilized intercourse. The chief of Okrika, on the Bonny river, was deposed for such reasons only a few months ago. There is scarcely an annual report of affairs in the Niger Coast Protectorate which does not include the account of an expedition against one or other of the river chiefs. For some of these the local forces of the protectorate suffice. Benin is strong enough to require special measures of repression, and as Brass, situated close to the frontier through which the Niger Company's territory passes to the sea, might be disposed to seize the present opportunity for renewed misconduct, the position on the coast is likely to give some occupation to the imperial squadron in West African waters. Summarized in three sentences, the facts which have to be remembered about the situation on the coast are that, with the exception of the narrow strip through which the territories of the Royal Niger Company find access to the sea, the whole district is under the direct control of the imperial government; that any military operations which it may be necessary to undertake are of a character that frequent repetition has rendered more or less familiar and can be conducted from a sea base; finally, that the disturbance on the coast is separated by about 300 miles of wild country, inhabited by pagan ribes, from the scene of the Royal Niger Company's campaign in the interior.—*The African Times.*

A New India-rubber Field.—An opinion has been gaining ground that the supply of India rubber from native forests is running short, and that an era of cultivated forests is not far distant. Meanwhile we learn from Lagos that a new source of supply is being opened out in the Yoruba country, which promises to add India rubber to the existing list of exports from the dependency. A correspondent of *The Lagos Record*, who has traveled over a large portion of the Ibadan and Jebu districts of Yoruba, declares that the whole of the forest region lying between the Osun river on the east and Iperu on the west abounds with the rubber tree. Specimens of the produce have been tested, and are said to compare favorably with that exported from any part of the West Coast of Africa. There appears to be some danger that the natives may be tempted to cut down the trees instead of tapping them, in order the more rapidly to make money out of the new industry. The correspondent recommends, therefore, that the colonial government should publish stringent regulations against the felling of India rubber trees. He expresses a confident opinion that if the gathering of India rubber in Yoruba is properly managed this commodity is destined to take a leading place in the future export trade of Lagos.—*The African Times.*

I would say to the intending settler in British Central Africa: "If you are of sound constitution, and will live wisely and well, I can promise you in that country immunity from all serious diseases except malarial fever and hæmaturia. The chances are about one to ten that you will never have fever at all, and about eleven to ten that you will not have 'black-water' fever; and if you do have 'black-water' fever, the chances are not more than two to ten that you will die from it if you are of sound constitution."—*H. H. Johnson in the New Review, London.*

The Congo Railway.—The first half of the Congo railway between Matadi and Stanley Pool was officially inaugurated on July 22, 1896, in presence of representatives of the Congo State, France, and Belgium. The inaugural train performed the distance from Matadi to Tumba, a distance of 189 miles, in ten hours.—*The African Times.*